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## REVIEW OF POLITICS.

THE great and, indeed, the only important Parliamentary event of the week, has been the production of the annual financial statement, which was laid before the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Thursday. On no previous occasion had Mr. Gladstone an easier task; for on none had he a larger surplus to dispose of, and on none could he appeal to figures showing more incontestably the prosperity of the country under his fiscal administration. When he brought forward the Budget last year, he estimated the expenditure for 1864-5 at £66,890,000; it has, in fact, only been £66,462,000. On the other hand, the revenue for the same year was taken at £67,128,000; it has actually reached £70,313,000. On the accounts of last year there is, therefore, a balance in favour of revenue of £3,851,000. The increase of revenue to which this surplus is mainly due is spread over almost all the heads of taxation, and is especially large in those branches which afford the best indication of the prosperity of the country. Nor is this all. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to show that the legislation of recent years has not only increased the productiveness of the revenue, but has increased the rate at which that productiveness augments. From 1842 to 1852, that rate of progress was only £1,030,000; from 1853 to 1859 it was £1,240,000; but from 1859 to 1865 it has reached the high figure of £1,780,000. Of course, nothing can show more clearly the elasticity of the country, or the beneficial results which may be obtained by relieving the springs of industry. Against the charge of making reckless remissions of taxation, Mr. Gladstone successfully vindicated himself by pointing to the fact that when he entered office in 1859 the debt of the country amounted to £823,934,000, whereas it was now only £808,288,000,—or a reduction of not less than £17,646,000. We cannot refer even in the most general manner to the statistics by which the Right Hon. gentleman displayed the prosperity and the progress of commerce; but we cannot resist the temptation of mentioning that while in 1859 our trade with France only amounted to £26,432,000, it last year reached £49,797,000. To the great and good man who has left us this legacy of a useful and laborious life, Mr. Gladstone paid an eloquent and feeling tribute, which was equally worthy of the orator and his subject. But we have already lingered too long over the past, seeing that the great interest of a budget depends upon the proposals which it contains with reference to future taxation. The expenditure for the year 1865-66 is taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at £66,139,000, and the income at £70,170,000; thus leaving a surplus available for the relief of the taxpayers, of not less than £4,031,000. That is a substantial sum; and upon the whole we think that the Right Hon. gentleman's

mode of distributing it is as judicious as it is certainly likely to be popular. Before, however, mentioning what he will do, we may as well dispose of one thing at least which Mr. Gladstone will not do. He will neither abolish nor reduce the duty on malt. Abolition as he points out would necessarily involve the total destruction of our system of indirect taxation. Reduction would do little or no good to the farmer or the beer-drinker, while it would be unjust to consumers generally, seeing that malt is already more lightly taxed, in proportion to its value, than either wine or tea. To meet the complaints of the growers of lower and middling sorts of barley, it is however proposed to give the maltster an option of having his duty charged by weight or by measure; but this concession will not, so far as we understand, involve any loss of revenue. We shall pass over minor modifications in the Stamp-duties, which are practically of little or no importance, and come at once to the first of Mr. Gladstone's great remissions. The duty on tea is at present 1s. a pound: it is to be reduced by one half. By this remission it is calculated that the price of the article to the consumer will be lowered 20 per cent., and that consumption will thus be powerfully stimulated. Allowing for the recovery of duty, which may safely be anticipated from this increased consumption, Mr. Gladstone estimates the loss to the revenue at £1,856,000 in the present year, with a further loss of £207,000 in 1865-6. The Income-tax is then lightened by 2d. in the pound (leaving it at 4d. in the pound), at an ultimate sacrifice of £2,600,000 of revenue, of which, however, only £1,650,000 will fall on the present year. Bowing to the resolution which the House passed by an overwhelming majority, on a recent occasion, the Chancellor of the Exchequer finally announced his intention to reduce the duty on Fire Insurance to a uniform rate of 1s. 6d., from the 25th of June next; and he will moreover replace the 1s. stamp-duty on the policies by one of 1d. These three remissions—of Tea-duty, Income-tax, and Fire-insurance—will eventually yield an annual relief to the consumer of £5,420,000 per annum. Only £3,778,000 of this relief—or to look at it from the opposite point of view, of this loss to the revenue—will be realized in the year 1865-6. At the end of the current year, there will, therefore, if these calculations turn out well-founded, be a surplus of £253,000; but, on the other hand, £1,160,000 of further remission remains to be met next year out of the increasing revenue of the country. We have not the slightest misgiving as to the perfect safety of relying in this manner, and to this extent, upon our growing national prosperity. Nor do we entertain any doubt that the Budget, as a whole, will be favourably received by the people, whose interest it consults, and whose welfare it seems well adapted to promote.



It appears that there is, after all, a prospect of some arrangement being come to between the Pope and the King of Italy, with reference to the filling up of the vacant bishoprics. According to the *Unità Catholica*, his Holiness, in the autograph letter which he addressed to Victor Emmanuel, proposed that ecclesiastical institution should be granted on the following terms:—First, that the persons chosen should be suitable; secondly, that any bishops at present under restraint be liberated, and prosecutions commenced given up; and, thirdly, that certain prelates designated by the Pope, and not admitted, should be accepted by the Government. None of these conditions are, according to this authority, likely to involve any great difficulty; and it seems certain that on some points, at least, an agreement has been arrived at between Pius IX. and Signor Vigezzi, who has been dispatched to Rome to conduct the negotiations on the part of the Italian Government. At any rate, we are informed, on the authority of the *Times* correspondent at Rome, that it has been settled that the bishops already appointed in the former dominions of the Pope shall be allowed to assume office without taking the oath of allegiance; that bishops, who have been exiled or imprisoned, shall be permitted to return at their own pleasure; and that the King of Italy shall appoint Lombard and Piedmontese bishops, according to ancient right. At first sight, nearly all the advantage of such an arrangement appears to be on the side of the Pope. But it must not be forgotten that it involves at least a tacit recognition on the part of his Holiness of that annexation of the Umbrian Provinces, against which he has hitherto stoutly protested. That point once gained, a door is opened for negotiation on other subjects, with respect to which both the French and Italian Governments are desirous to arrive at some definite settlement. It cannot be supposed that diplomatic discussion once opened will be arrested at the stage which it has now reached. We hear already that there is some probability of an agreement being come to in reference to the transfer of a portion of the old Papal debt to the Kingdom of Italy. That, again, would still further facilitate an amicable understanding on other topics of controversy. And although it is not easy to see how an eventual collision between the two Powers can be averted, there is at least a better chance of so desirable a consummation, if they can be brought to discuss matters amicably, instead of holding each other at arm's length. The very fact of any negotiation at all taking place involves an abandonment on the part of the Pope of the *non possumus*, which he has hitherto opposed to every suggestion. We gather from it that he is at last convinced of the necessity of coming to terms. And, in that case, we may reasonably indulge the hope that with patience and forbearance on both sides, all difficulties may at length be adjusted, and the maintenance of a nominal temporal power be reconciled with the substantial enjoyment by the Romans, of the rights to which they are entitled as members of the Italian race.

The death of the Czarewitch has created a painful impression throughout Europe. It is impossible to remain altogether insensible to the spectacle of a young prince, the heir to a great empire, struck down just as he was entering life with every prospect of greatness, usefulness, and happiness. Nor can we help feeling a strong sympathy for the Czar and the people of Russia in losing one whom all accounts concur in representing as endowed with many amiable and some conspicuous qualities. In England we have a peculiar reason for such sympathy. The late Czarewitch was betrothed, as is well known, to the Princess Dagmar, of Denmark, the sister of our Princess of Wales. His loss is a grief to one whom we all hold dear, and to those whom she holds amongst the dearest. It is another blow to that royal family of Denmark, whose recent reverses we have witnessed with such deep regret and indignation. On this, if on no other ground, this sad event would excite general regret. Almost at the same time as we received news of the death of one of the youngest heirs-apparent to an European throne, we also received intelligence of the serious illness of the Nestor of Continental monarchs. We have, however, since learnt with lively satisfaction that the health of the King of the Belgians has materially improved; and we trust that his life may yet be spared for some years. He has rendered—perhaps he is still rendering—invaluable services to the peace of the world. But he has another, and hardly less powerful, claim upon our regard, in the fact that he is the beloved and venerated uncle of our Queen.

Prussia has been obliged to withdraw from her insolent and audacious attempt to annex the port of Kiel by making it the station of her navy. Austria had borne much with long-suffering patience. But this is more than she could tolerate. She is not yet prepared to see herself degraded by M. von Bismarck to the level of a second-rate German Power; and on the other hand M. von Bismarck does not deem the time propitious for subjecting her to forcible humiliation. He has, accordingly, withdrawn the order for the removal of the Prussian navy from Dantzic to Kiel; and for the present that port, like the rest of Slesvig-Holstein, is left under the joint sway of the two Powers. But the Cabinet of Berlin is nevertheless evidently determined not to let matters rest as they are much longer. According to a semi-official paper, Prussia has proposed the convocation of the Diets of the Duchies, on the basis of the electoral law of 1848, or of some other to be agreed upon between herself and Austria. The Diets so convoked are, we are informed, to discuss the financial conditions of the country, great sacrifices having become necessary. The object in view is rendered tolerably plain, when we are further told that Prussia will never permit the entry of Slesvig into the German Confederation without receiving an equivalent for the services she has rendered; and that her policy is not to shun any discussion, but, on the contrary, to court it, in order to convince the Duchies that the charge of selfishness which has been applied to her has no foundation. In plain English, Prussia seeks an opportunity of saying to the Duchies:—"If you want to be free, you must pay an enormous price for your liberation; if you chose to join us, we will give you an acquittance." By this means it is evidently hoped that an expression of opinion may be evoked which will overbear the resistance of Austria and of the other German Powers to the annexation of the territory conquered from Denmark, to the North German State.

The views which we expressed last week with regard to the probable course of events in America has been mournfully verified by the event. Pressed on every side by superior numbers—weakened by repeated defeats, and probably also by constant desertion—General Lee decided that it would neither be the part of a good soldier nor a good citizen to continue a hopeless resistance. After a correspondence with General Grant, which was eminently honourable to both these distinguished men, the Confederate leader laid down his arms on the 9th instant. Accounts differ very much as to the number of men who stood by him to the last; but we should certainly not be disposed to place it at more than 20,000. To such small dimensions had dwindled the noble army of Virginia, which, after gaining a long series of brilliant victories, found itself bankrupt in everything except honour. The armies by which it was surrounded outnumbered it at least sixfold. They were flushed with victory, and led by officers whose ability had been signally proved in the recent operations. Under such circumstances it is impossible to blame, however much we may regret, the step which Lee felt it his duty to take. Crushing as this disaster is, it is not the only one which has befallen the South since we last wrote. Selma, in Alabama, has been captured with twenty-three guns and a large amount of property; and although the defence of Mobile is still maintained with great obstinacy, it is impossible not to see that in spite of their losses the besiegers are making steady progress. General Johnston's army still remains intact, and at the date of the last advices it was retreating westward, pursued by Sherman. But it is idle to expect that it can effect anything—or even long maintain its existence—against the overwhelming forces which can now be directed against it. Regular military resistance is now out of the power of the Confederates. Nothing remains for them except submission, or a guerilla war. We are as yet without any means of judging which alternative they are likely to embrace; for although it is true that in a proclamation, dated April 6th, President Davis announced his determination to continue the war, and never to abandon one State of the Confederacy, this was three days before the surrender of Lee had so materially altered the situation. Speaking generally, it must be admitted that the Federals received the intelligence of their success with moderation, and with some approach to magnanimity. It is true that General Butler collected together a mob after his own heart, and urged, amongst their echoing plaudits, that the South should



be conquered, her military leaders hanged, her legislators deprived of citizenship, her misguided soldiers in the ranks paraded, and her blacks raised to equality with the whites in every respect. But we feel bound in fairness to acknowledge, that these do not seem to have been the pervading sentiments of the Northern people, as they certainly were not the ideas of the late President. There can be no reasonable doubt that it was Abraham Lincoln's intention to make a not ungenerous use of his victory; and he would probably have been able to impress his policy on a people who had learnt to trust his honesty, and to recognise in him the most sagacious of such statesmen as are left to them. What may be the effect of his horrible murder—to which we have adverted more fully in another column—it is yet too soon to predict; but we fear that it will greatly embitter what remains of the struggle.

#### THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

RARELY, if ever, has a greater thrill of surprise and horrified indignation passed through the London public than was experienced on Wednesday morning at the announcement of the assassination of President Lincoln, and the attempt (which is only too likely to be successful) on the life of the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward. The first feeling was one of incredulity. Men could not believe, on reading the bare announcement contained in the earliest telegrams, that the worst political crimes of Russia, the bitterest fruit of Continental and Asiatic despotism and suppression of free speech, had suddenly made their appearance in the extreme West, where, whatever faults may be charged against people or the government, the forms of law and the safeguards of opinion are in force. In the progress of this unhappy struggle of Federals and Confederates, we have been on several occasions accustomed to false reports, designed to affect the markets and further the ends of dishonest speculators; and it was hoped by some that this might be an instance of the same kind. The arrival of ampler telegrams, however, destroyed the possibility of any such belief, and it must now be written that an atrocity which few undertake to defend, even when committed against tyrants such as the Czar Paul or the late King Ferdinand of Naples, has been acclimatized in the capital of the American Union, without any extenuating circumstances to moderate humanity's instinctive horror of deliberate and stealthy murder. The consequences of the crime are lamentably apparent. Constituted as human nature is, it is scarcely possible that the people of the North should not be lashed to the highest pitch of fury by the assassination of their President and the attempted murder of his principal Minister. The recent victories of Sherman and Grant, and the manifest superiority in resources of the Federals over the Confederates, seemed to have satisfied the utmost ambition of the former, and to have left them, with a few exceptions, not indisposed to treat their enemies with leniency and generous consideration. Mr. Lincoln himself, at a Cabinet Council held shortly before his death, spoke kindly of Lee and of other supporters of the Confederacy, and it is certain that he was inclined towards a pacific policy. Men were beginning to hope that the wounds of the last four years were on the point of being closed: they are now torn open afresh by the violence of a murderous hand. What excesses of retaliation may be committed by those who, but for this miserable calamity, might have been willing to forget old animosities in the prospect of a better future, we forbear to contemplate. Men are often unreasoning beings; and it will not be unnatural, however unjust, if the Federals identify the whole South with the conspiracy of which Lincoln was a victim. The difficulty of coming to terms with the Secessionists is obviously increased in an immeasurable degree, and the country seems to have been at once flung back into the anarchy from which it was just escaping. Proscriptions and judicial vengeance are the customary answers to murderous attacks. A people flushed with military success, possessing enormous power, and finding itself struck at the heart by a serpent-like and venomous blow, which it could not guard against because it did not anticipate it, is generally quick to vent its rage by blows as deadly, and much more widely directed. Vice-President Johnson, who, in virtue of the Constitutional law in such cases, has succeeded to the chief office, is known to be identified with the most extreme section of the Republican party—that which is the least inclined to compromise, and the most desirous of harsh measures; and assuredly what we know of his antecedents does not give us at all a favourable impression of his judgment, his capacity, or his power of self-control. It cannot be concealed that the lamentable incident which occurred at the installation of the Vice-President on the 4th of March has placed him in a position before

the world which nothing but a prolonged course of dignified conduct in his great office can make us forget; and, as the facts at present stand, we must be excused if we regard Andrew Johnson as a very unfortunate successor to the rough, manly, honest, and unblemished Abraham Lincoln.

For, after all disputes as to political principles are at an end, it will, we believe, be acknowledged on both sides that there was something great in that humble, uncouth, gigantic, half-educated rail-splitter from Illinois. He sometimes astonished, sometimes annoyed the refined statesmanship of Europe; but in the end he wrung from it respect, which in the last few weeks was rising into admiration, and which his bloody death will heighten and consecrate. He had the bark of the back woods about him, and he could not divest himself of it even in the saloons of the White House; he made strange jests when he should have been decorously reserved; but he never disgusted any but the vulgar at heart. It was as though nature had fashioned him gaunt, and huge, and craggy, the better to encounter the grim work to which he had set his hand. We who live in an age of Special Correspondents and of photographs, and who see everything analytically and as it were under the microscope, have perhaps dwelt somewhat too much on these defects; but will posterity regard them to the same extent? Who thinks of the warts on Cromwell's face now that, having receded so far from the man's time, we see him in his totality? Abraham Lincoln assumed the Chief Magistracy at a period of unparalleled difficulty, of overwhelming national disaster; and even we who have disagreed with the policy which he represented must admit that few men could have borne such a burden with greater innate power and constancy, or could have passed through such a fiery ordeal with fewer mistakes of a serious kind. When he might have been almost excused for despairing, he was calmly hopeful; when the hour of success arrived, he did not yield to the drunkenness of revenge. We are judging him, of course, on purely moral grounds, and from the point of view which he conceived to be right. Setting aside, then, all debateable matters of opinion, it must be admitted that Abraham Lincoln has won for himself, by consistency, by firmness, and by a certain progressive and expanding power, the most conspicuous place next to Washington in the list of American Presidents. Neither his capacity nor his education was great; but honesty is in itself capacity, and that of no mean order—it is in itself education, and that not of the worst. His death will only increase his fame. It sets him on a pedestal from which he cannot be taken down, and crystallizes his reputation at the very moment of his triumph.

#### BANKING MORALITY.

THE English as a nation have been called shopkeepers, which, being rendered into its plain meaning, is simply an assertion that England's greatness is built on the Englishman's love of commercial pursuits. It is no disgrace to us to accept the title, and admit that we are what we are, because we have pursued trade as the great calling of our country, and thus have arrived at our high position amongst the nations of the earth. The successful honest tradesman is ever a man held in that measure of esteem which is his just due. To have achieved success, he must have been wise, cautious, industrious. To have preserved the character of an honest man, he must have held fast to his integrity with the gripe of a heart firmly set to hold to good, and resist evil. To trade is to be trusted, to trade on in perfect honesty is never to betray confidence. The man, then, who has become wealthy in trade, by wisdom, prudence, industry, and honesty, is one of whom his country may be well proud. If, amongst all nations, one nation in particular achieves greatness, by its character for wisdom, industry, and honesty in its commerce, it may well be proud of the fact. The glory won in war may be, after all, only that of success in an unjust cause. The true glory of commerce consists in the fact that it is won in a field, where there can be no glory in success at all, if it has not been obtained by absolute justice in its trade transactions. Whatever tends to lower England in its own estimation, or in that of other nations, as a trading nation, directly affects the national honour.

The experience of the last few years goes far to warn us that our character for commercial honesty is in danger. There is a certain code of honour amongst thieves. Blacklegs are not so black but that they establish degrees of moral blackness amongst themselves. There were once clearly-defined lines in respectable commercial society, denoting what was rigidly right; what, under pressure, was sometimes justifiable; and what, under no circumstances, no conceivable pressure, was to be tolerated as honest. To act up to the letter, the character of a perfectly honest dealer, was the part



of those who wished to be looked up to as the chiefs of commerce. These were the Bayards of the city, men known for probity, respected for it, by it commanding most justly great influence. To those who, under sudden and perhaps undeserved pressure, it had happened to have somewhat relaxed the strict rules of commercial honour, was given the pity they merited, for the weakness they might have shown: their acts were not defended, although condoned. When any, deliberately, with cunning aforethought, left the path of commercial loyalty, and for mere present gain, or future gain, traded with open or covert dishonesty, preying on those who trusted them, working out deceit with industry, they used to be called rogues, and as such were put without the pale of honest commercial society.

Is it so now? Do we not hear men who speak of themselves and friends as "highly respected in the city," defend their own, and the practices of such friends, when the practices in question have no more to do with honourable dealing than has the industry of the thimble-rig and his confederates? An asset in commerce means certain property, available to meet the claims of those who may be our creditors; it is that amount of capital in possession which invites clients to trust us with their money; to avow we are possessed of so much available capital is to proclaim that, at least thus far, we are in a position to merit confidence. To forge capital, to make it a matter of figures representing as existing that which has no real existence, is deliberate fraud. To make the capital which belongs to one business act by a species of legerdemain so as to represent the same amount belonging to another business, is simply clever dishonesty. The £30,000 of Business A, shown as an asset, gives that much confidence in the solvency of the said business; but if it is used also to give the same confidence to Business B, here is the clear working of a double fraud. This may, for all we know, be a common act in certain commercial circles, but we cannot believe that one honest trader living would attempt to justify it.

In the matter of mustard, starch, and black lead, we are content, when warned where alone the true thing is to be obtained, to believe that there are dealers who for profit give us an article for the Sunday beef, the laundry's pride, or the grate's adornment, which is not so good as it might be. When we put our dividends in a bank which professes to be solvent to the tune of its very many thousands; when every half-year we receive our interest, as paid upon our deposit, and are favoured with the report of the half-yearly meeting, rehearsing its profits, sounding the loud trumpet of the increase of its capital, the chairman and directors ostentatiously setting forth their incessant gratuitous watchfulness, but modestly disclaiming any merit for it, we are induced to believe that we have at last got "the right mustard." We know the liability to grief of all banks; but here there is no voice of lamentation, there is no symptom of dissatisfaction. Behold our balance-sheet! our capital! the high City position of our directors! See here the list of good sound bills! Was ever such a bank as our bank? Could we suspect where all was so open? In the simplicity of our hearts, was it possible for us to conceive that the balance-sheet was cooked, the capital a fiction? Could we mistrust an alderman, and really suppose that he had been as active to shore-up a falling concern as he was seemingly active in the zealous working of a prosperous one? that he borrowed money of a bank that had no real title to any, and used it to enhance the price of its shares, which nothing but such a practice could have made saleable at the value given for them? We write in no exaggerated, purist spirit; we know that in these days of unlimited lie-ability, "concerns" utterly rotten from the first, are cleverly raised for a time into public credit. We have no right to grudge a flea his meal, but when bitten we try to annihilate him, and the itching, by some strange law, ceases when he dies. If professional projectors entrap us we are irritated, and long to annihilate the breed. With thin skins, we avoid a hen-roost. Cautious against fraud, we look for respectability in those we trust. Alas! our faith is sadly shaken; what are called "good city men" have been to confession; with scarce a show of penitence they have made a clean breast of transactions so commercially vile, that we are inclined to ask in what does City virtue consist, if these are men in high esteem?

It appears to be the custom to keep scapegoats in these "concerns"—men capable of bearing odium with equanimity, should cause for it arise, and the interest of the directorate require the servants to carry the load which would crush the masters. These poor creatures will now require great muscular immorality, a very hypertrophy of guilty heart composure, if they are to be prepared to carry the weight now likely to be put upon them, and not show the fact. To condemn the manager is one thing—he probably expects it—it was an hypothetical "inclusive" of his salary. We

doubt, however, if he ever bargains to be put in the dock, and risk penal servitude even to save aldermen. The public have had one or two severe lessons of late. They are now again well warned. If all is not gold that glitters, it is equally true that all is not capital that is gold. We have learned the fact, that the chairman of a bank, a man of high City mark, a very Pecksniff in the commercial profession, can justify rigging the market to raise the value of its shares; ever professing, as a principle, security to profit, he can coolly justify two accounts kept open at the two branches of the same concern, so worked that, before the half-yearly meeting, by cleverly transferring the apparent deposit from one to the other, the balance-sheet of each may reap the value, *as its own*, of this migratory cash account.

It is now argued, that however lax modern ideas of commercial honesty have become, the public in general are content to have it so. There is a fast spreading stoicism as to the results of gigantic frauds. High class roguery may be the work of men prominent in high class society. They become M.P.'s, attend levees, their very names have a market value in "society;" people are glad to speak of them as acquaintances; have a certain sort of pride in the fact if they can call them friends. Sponsors for that ever-increasing family, "good things," the crowd who are ever on the watch to share in the profits of anything "good" at the moment, flatter them as they trust them. When this or that commercial magnate is at last discovered to be nothing less, perhaps something more, than an utterly unprincipled adventurer, who, under the mask of a high-sounding commercial name, has been all along a party to transactions coolly contemplated and carried out to deceive those who trusted in that name, does society rise up indignant against such deliberate dishonesty? Is the unveiled city prophet cast out of the city, and stoned with the hard reproaches of the city's people? Does West-end honour blush to think that with such a man it has loved to consort, and to make him free of even its most exclusive circle? We with shame write what we well know to be the fact. The anger of his dupes scarcely lasts two moons. His personal friends are so far from shunning him, that they are all for setting him on his legs again. He is a first-rate man of business. We should never be surprised to see him with a gold chain round his neck as a mayor. In our recollection less real guilt would have put his life into the law's "suspense" account—he might have been tied up in hemp.

Banking, the direct trade in money, should be to all other commerce as the very soul of its integrity. Once show a disposition towards a lenient construction of banking guilt, and we strike at the very root of commercial life. The national character for truthful dealing receives a heavy blow, suffers severe commercial detriment, when the parlour of a bank is made a field in which the trickery on a large scale, which in lesser fields of industry is held to be vile, is either connived at, coolly transacted, or, for some pressing end, condoned. It is not disputed that the great competition for business which the joint-stock banks have produced must of necessity drive some of them to transact business of a character often questionable. To get custom at all it will be necessary to accept some in which there is great risk and as little real credit as probable profit. All cannot do first-class business; but none doing business inferior in character need to reduce the character of the directorate to the level of that of its least respected clients. We are told that directors are not presumed to keep the watch of detectives over their manager and secretary. Their own honourable conduct, however, should be such that their officers would feel that no sanction, real or implied, would be given to the slightest departure from what is strictly honest. To plead that the managers and secretaries came from other old established firms with the highest testimonials, does not extenuate the fact that these honourable servants became dishonest in the work of their own firm. If you are content for your own ease to eat your dinner daily with dirty plate, having had a high character with your under-butler, is it not the case that your negligence has fostered his idleness? If managers and secretaries coming from first-class banking houses find in their new place of business that low class transactions form the staple of their work, they are soon led to perceive the kind of service which will make them most acceptable. The ever-recurring necessity for the cunning that has to cope with doubtful paper and undoubted attempts to deceive, the perpetual exercise of "inquiry" into the real nature of transactions which at best are not such as a good firm would entertain, is sure to give the servants a clue to the real condition and character of the particular firm they serve, as it soon teaches them how to win the goodwill of the parlour by that species of dressing up of the daily accounts so easily acquired by men of any experience in such business. As their eyes get fully opened to the real position of their firm, they must be dull indeed



if the speeches and balance sheets, at the half-yearly meetings, do not satisfy them that to keep their situations they must work up to their elbows to support their employers in the only line which can keep the concern afloat. It may be a dishonest line, one to them of cool, deliberate deceit; but they have taken the service, and this is its character. Can we wonder that the best of servants, by such a process, should be led to aid and abet their present employers in transactions, the least suspicious of which would have been a disgrace to those from whom they came? It is, however, wonderful that they should be prosecuted for doing it.

There have been well-known cases in which private banking firms have begun a large business with little or no real capital; their own respectability, and that of their well-known connections, have secured them at once a safe and profitable business; they have enjoyed the fullest confidence of large provincial districts, their bank has at length become a sort of institution, to doubt its solvency would have been a species of treason; so long as the business transacted supported its old cautious character, all was well. Ambition to do more led to folly in the doing of it. Then came heavy losses, followed by all the bitter work of the labour to conceal them. Hopelessly insolvent, family pride, and the very nature of the respect they had earned, seemed to forbid the confession that men so prudent had become so rash. The evil day was postponed. With the skeleton of positive insolvency in the strong closet, the partners have had to wear the quiet smile of self-respect, courteously affording aid to others in distress, distress in reality nothing compared with their own. They have received deposits, issued their notes, to the very day they closed their doors, and thus first proclaimed their own misconduct. For such men we can have some feeling of pity; true, it is proved they have worn a mask, but then they did it in suffering and pain; these men fall, to rise no more.

Not so your modern bubble town firm, which may come to grief, never having, in its parlour, had one moment of honestly-deserved joy. Puffed into position, born of the unscrupulous canvassing of some professional projector, he receives his *douceur* and retires from the scene. The money of *bona fide* believing shareholders is lent at once to purchase the shares, which are to qualify a greedy, speculating, but clever little knot of directors. These, strange to say, seldom fail to entrap as colleagues a few men of name, who probably have neither the leisure nor the ability to take any real active part in the business. The necessary paid-up capital is now no real difficulty. If it has ever really existed as announced, it existed by some of the clever stratagems, so well known to adepts in firm making. To rig the market when shares went off, or are inclined to go off at so low a figure as to give the concern a bad name, is a matter easily arranged in the parlour. An obliging director takes a loan for the purpose, and finds friends to purchase at a figure that keeps up the value of shares sold, and sends the watchers for "good things" to the office that some of the unsold shares may be allotted to them. To get business, good if possible, if not still business, every possible species of commercial touting is employed. As borrowers abound who are suspects to old firms, but who must have money, they flock to the new firm. We need not trouble our readers to further trace "the firm" to its natural end—another bubble burst. It has lately again and again been made matter of such notoriety that we are getting sick of the repetition of the stale tricks displayed. The most sickening feature, however, of such affairs is the fact that the men who, again and again, appear on this dishonest scene are suffered to escape those legal penalties which attach to villainy less vile in the lower grades of life. The remedy for this state of things must be looked for from the action of honest men engaged in commerce, who must feel the disgrace brought upon England's commercial honour, when the perpetrators of these lax doings are allowed still to hold up their heads in places of public business as if they were under no taint from their ill-doing. It is mere prudery to make laws to govern brokers if bankers are to be held free to do what would disgrace any broker.

#### THE LAST ADMIRALTY EXPLOITS.

THE week has been signalized by the launching or "undocking" of a very big ship by Mr. Reed at Chatham. It has also been signalized by the making or "*suggestio*" of a very big assertion by Lord Clarence Paget in the House of Commons. The two facts have a curious connection, and need a little historical narrative to make their full significance apparent. Let us take the material one first.

The *Bellerophon* is the first exemplification on a grand scale of the ideas of the new Chief Constructor of the Navy. This

gentleman, who before his appointment to that supreme office had never built a ship at all, has already enriched our fleet with some smaller specimens of his ideas. Among these is the *Research*, of 1,253 tons, on whose peculiarities as a fighting-ship we have before now commented, and on whose sailing qualities it may be sufficient to cite the words of her captain:—"I do not consider her a wholesome sea-going ship as compared with wooden ships. At the same time, I do not consider that she would be in danger of going down in a gale, provided proper means were taken to batten her down securely." But the *Bellerophon* is an idea of nearly four times the magnitude of the *Research*, and we must hope that the practical knowledge of his profession which Mr. Reed has acquired by the exercise of it in building the ships on which our position and safety are to depend, will have made her at least four times better than her predecessor. In some respects the ideas which she embodies are very large indeed. She is not only of 4,250 tons and 1,000 horse-power, but she is armed with iron plates along her water-line of 6-inch thickness, and these, for a space of ninety feet in the centre of each broadside out of the 300 of her total length, are continued upwards, so as to protect the deck battery. This is what she actually is. What she is intended to do is to carry fourteen twelve-ton guns, or 300-pounders when rifled, ten of which are to be within the armoured battery and two at each extremity. But of the carrying out of this intention, it is proper to speak with some reserve; for though Mr. Reed has always said that he intended, when he had time, to invent machinery for working guns of such weight in broadside ports, he has not until the other day made the invention. Whether it will work at all, remains to be ascertained. And how far, even if she can work her guns, the *Bellerophon* will be what we require—a sea-going ironclad at once safe, fast, and handy—is also a question still to be ascertained by trial. The data we at present possess seem to indicate that she may have the last-mentioned quality, but can scarcely be expected to have much to boast of in regard to the two former. For less than one-third of her deck and little more than two-thirds of her armament are protected at all, while her length is but  $5\frac{1}{2}$  times her breadth, the recognised modern proportion of length for speedy ships being not less than 7 times, and in the *Warrior*  $6\frac{1}{2}$  times, the breadth.

Yet, while we await further experience to tell Mr. Reed and the public how far he has made a lucky hit, or, to do him full justice, has acquired skill in his trade, there is one point in the history of the *Bellerophon* on which credit must already be given him. She has been as yet only sixteen months in building; and as it is said she is to be ready for sea in four months more, she will be a proof that a Government dockyard can turn out a vessel of the largest size, and most novel ideas, in twenty months from the time she is first laid down. But for this proof of departmental activity we might have believed that the feat was beyond its power, for it took two years merely to convert the *Royal Sovereign* from a three-decker to a turret-ship—though she was not rigged at all. Three years as yet have also passed since the contract for Captain Coles's new ship, the *Prince Albert*, was entrusted to a private firm, and the vessel is still unlaunched. And exactly the same period of time has elapsed since Captain Coles's ideas were forced by Parliament on the attention of the Admiralty, and we only hear that it is still deliberating whether it will order them to be tried on a ship to be built in its own yards. Surely, then, honour is due to Mr. Reed for having proved that the Admiralty, while it ponders profoundly over one invention, can be prompt in accepting and executing another. Surely the country will be glad to receive this evidence that our Naval Administration can be really energetic when the interests of a favourite of the Duke of Somerset's are concerned. "Take care of Dowb." once testified to the personal anxiety of the Horse Guards in a crisis of war. "Help on Reed" is the substance now, while our navy is being reconstructed, of all the orders flashed along telegraph wires from Whitehall to the dockyards. And when the War Department applies all its energies to the preservation of Dowb., and the Naval Department devotes its whole soul, and sacrifices the public honour, to the helping on of Reed, it is really wonderful how much work they can both put through their hands.

But now let us turn to the spiritual part of this week's navy news. The House of Commons, on Monday, voted, with scarcely any hesitation, in the absence of members acquainted with the facts, the sums asked for to complete Mr. Reed's ships in our own dockyards, and commence some others of his designing in private yards. On Tuesday the report was brought up, and Mr. Laird was in his place. That gentleman, it will be remembered, was the builder of the Confederate broadsider, *Alabama*, and also of the



Confederate turret-ships, since purchased by our Government, and now named the *Scorpion* and the *Wyvern*. He is therefore a most competent authority on the capabilities and requisites of vessels of war for modern purposes. He put the question to Lord Clarence Paget, whether there was any intention of providing this country with two classes of vessels which are now being obtained by foreign Governments; firstly, a class of from 1,100 to 1,200 tons, carrying two 300-pounders and steaming eleven to twelve knots; and secondly, a class of over 2,000 tons, carrying two 600-pounders, or four 300-pounders, and capable of steaming twelve to thirteen knots, while having a draught of only seventeen or eighteen feet; or, finally, he wished to know whether there was any intention of building vessels recommended by Sir John Hay, of an intermediate size of 1,600 tons, carrying only one 600-pounder or two 300-pounders, with a speed of fourteen knots, or as fast as the *Warrior*, while four of them could be built for the same cost, be worked with fewer hands, and be infinitely more formidable than that ship. All these involved the turret construction, there being none other capable of carrying such guns, with sufficient armour, and with such a tonnage, speed, and draught. To these exceedingly lucid questions, Lord Clarence Paget replied, *more suo*. First, he mixed up the two first classes Mr. Laird had distinguished, and triumphantly declared the impossibility of building a 1,000-ton vessel to go thirteen or fourteen knots. Reminded by Mr. Laird that it was of a 2,000-ton vessel he predicated that speed, Lord Clarence next asserted that we were doing something better. Mr. Reed, *toujours* Mr. Reed, had of course supplied them with designs surpassing anything a turret-ship could do; and though "they were always hearing of what foreign nations were doing, they had not yet found that foreign nations were able to do more than themselves." Frank, bluff seaman, goaded at last by unworthy aspersions into a moment's testiness! How could he find that foreign nations are doing more than ourselves, when it is so well known to everybody that the Secretary of the Admiralty never can find what it would not be perfectly convenient to find? What folly to talk to him about your turrets and your 300-pounders and 600-pounders, when he only knows this, that Mr. Reed has got a whole *Amazon* class in his brain—that prolific brain from which, as from Jove's, a Pallas has already sprung, full armed—each of which *Amazons* is to carry four 220-pounders on each broadside, throwing a total weight of almost 900 lb of iron. And, besides these, there is to be a class of 2,000 tons, plated on the water-line with 6-inch iron, which "they hoped would be able to carry eight 300-pounders. Assuming that they succeeded in that, he wanted to know whether anything that foreign Governments were about to build offered a prospect of greater efficiency?" Sanguine and patriotic Secretary! "Assuming that he succeeds," he wants to know whether he will not whip creation? Unfortunately, the whole case rests on the question whether he will succeed. Foreign nations have got their turret ships, and the turrets, we know, can work the 300-pounders with such ease that there is no doubt or assumption at all that they will work 600-pounders as soon as these can be provided. As to Mr. Reed's classes, we are going first to build them, but are not sure whether even a 300-pounder can be worked in them. And the House of Commons, which has no desire to unseat Government before the next election, acquiesces for this session in the Naval Secretary's misstatements of facts and "assumptions" of success. But the treatment to which he and his superiors have subjected Captain Coles has sunk deep in the mind of the public, it has been reprobated with an unprecedented unanimity by the press, and it is very possible that the consequence of toying with the national safety for the purpose of gratifying official partiality or spleen, may, in some close-run contests, cost the Government their majority during this autumn's appeal to the constituencies.

#### THE "RECORD" ON THE "LONDON REVIEW" CHURCH COMMISSION.

THE Commission, which has been sent out by this journal to examine into the working of the Church of England, and of the various dissenting bodies throughout the country, has been welcomed by many writers in the public press and by many clergymen, laymen, and dignitaries of the Church of England, who have personally addressed us on the subject, as one calculated to do a large amount of good; to bring abuses to light, and to enable the Church herself to see how far her ministers fulfil the duty of national teachers, and what progress is being made in the affections of the people by those religious bodies which are without her pale. And, indeed, no right-minded man can deny that such an inquiry is one of paramount importance. When

we find that in the midst of this great country, great in power, in wealth, and in intelligence, vast numbers of the population are living either in ignorance or in defiance of the laws of Christianity, while others are being educated in estrangement from the Church, it cannot be a matter of indifference to ascertain how far this may be due to a deficiency in the supply of religious teachers, or to a failure on their part to fulfil their solemn obligations. A Christian public has a right to know how this failure, if it exists, has arisen; how it comes to pass that, under the shadow of the Church, thousands are living in a state of heathenism, and what are the means by which this deplorable state of things may be remedied. And, to their honour be it said, there is no subject on which Englishmen more earnestly ask for information. For more than a quarter of a century we have seen at work a movement for the moral and religious regeneration of the poor, and for that object no means of information has been despised, whether it has been set on foot by individuals or by societies. There are men and women whose names have become honourable in the eyes of the community, solely because they have exerted themselves to master the secret of this or that form of prevailing vice or ignorance; and none, except those who have belonged to the miserable class which scoffs at every effort to elevate the masses, have reproached them with incapacity, or have prejudged or rejected the facts they have brought to light, on the ground that they were only "private" commissioners, and had not made their investigations under the sanction of the Crown. What, then, is our astonishment to find at the very outset of our Commission that the first voice which protests against it proceeds from a religious journal, and that journal the *Record*? One would have imagined that such an inquiry as that which we have set on foot, having for its aim above all things the religious welfare of the people, would have found in our contemporary a cordial sympathizer. But, far from that, it sees in our Commission a "dangerous tendency," and in the extent and character of its investigations "something really portentous." It denounces it as "an inquiry neither disinterested in its origin, nor impartial in its principles;" and even while professing to know nothing of the result "beyond what may be gleaned from the first or second paper," it cautions its readers and Churchmen generally "against attaching importance to the statements which may appear."

A journal which condemns as unworthy of trust statements which have not yet been made, cannot be expected to be very scrupulous in its assertions, nor very logical in its arguments. We are, therefore, not surprised to find that the *Record* accuses us of an interested motive in setting this inquiry on foot, though the charge is absolutely false; or that it denies the virtue of impartiality to a Commission whose opening paper, while declaring, and truly, a sincere attachment to the Established Church, admits the energy of Dissenters, the benevolence of Jews, and the zeal of the Roman Catholics. Of the charge of interested motives, we repeat that it is untrue. In sending out our Commission, we have but one object—the prosperity of the National Church, and that without which it cannot be said to be prosperous, namely, the religious welfare of the people. In order to test this prosperity, we must enter upon that wild field of inquiry which the *Record* regards as something really portentous. We must examine into "the value of livings, the modes of their division, and the proportion in which remuneration and labour are conjoined together;" and it will certainly not be foreign, but more appropriate, to such an inquiry, that the subject of patronage should receive our attention, "with a view to discover what is the effect of the different systems of public and private patronage on the actual work of the Church in the various localities." What is there "portentous" about this? The *Record* admits that there are abuses and anomalies, "neither few nor far between," in the Church of England, and it says it has no desire to conceal or gloss them over. We readily believe that it has no desire to conceal them, for we find in the same number in which it warns its readers against attaching any importance to statements which we have not yet made, an advertisement of "next presentations and advowsons for sale, with early possession; apply," &c. This traffic in the cure of souls is, we should imagine, one of the abuses which a religious organ should denounce, and from which it should disdain to derive a profit. But the *Record*, which does not scruple to trump up against us an unfounded charge of interested motives, has evidently an itching palm for the mammon of iniquity, and, while deploring abuses in its leading columns, is quick to profit by them in its columns devoted to advertisements.

If, then, there are abuses and anomalies in the Church,



"neither few nor far between," as the *Record* admits, what is the duty of the public press with regard to them? Secular journals make it their business to expose political abuses, social abuses, legal abuses, poor-law abuses, police abuses, and not infrequently even religious abuses. It is confessed, too, that they have done so with great advantage to society, and that it is to the press pre-eminently that we owe the chief ameliorations of the age. Why, then, should the LONDON REVIEW Commission, appointed to discover what may be done to reclaim our City Arabs and our rustic heathens to religion, be condemned, and that, too, by a religious journal? The task is one which the *Record* itself might have appropriately undertaken, and, knowing the prevalence of abuses, we might almost say that it was bound to do so. When, however, the attempt is made by another journal, it is alarmed at the portentous scope of the inquiry, its dangerous character and assumed unreliability. It believes it to be almost impossible, in the case of private commissions, to secure that impartiality, without which their investigations can be of no value whatever. It assumes that persons who are able to speak with authority on the various topics treated of in connection with specified localities "are unlikely to respond to the call of 'the Special Commissioner of the LONDON REVIEW,' or to submit themselves to examination and cross-examination at his hands," and that therefore "he must perforce pick up his information for the most part at second-hand, often indeed from mere gossip." Certainly, if one of our Commissioners were to address a rector or archdeacon in the tone of cross-examination, his audience would soon come to an end. The *Record* makes good its objection by its way of putting it. A Commissioner who would go the wrong way to work to get information would not get it. That is quite clear; but it is so clear that no rational man would make such a blunder. Let us assure our contemporary that our Commissioners have had no difficulty in obtaining correct and authentic information. They have found a general willingness to give every facility for the prosecution of their inquiries. And if the *Record* asks for a proof of the impartiality and disinterestedness of the LONDON REVIEW Church Commission, we will give him one. Reports reached us last week from a stranger to the Commission to the effect that Lord Shaftesbury did not adequately discharge his duties as a landlord and a Christian gentleman, having considerable possessions within the diocese of Salisbury. We need not now state the charges which were made against him, but we may say that, notwithstanding the high reverence in which his name is held by a section of the religious world, we should not have withheld these accusations from our readers if we had found them to be true. But so fully do we recognise the obligations our undertaking imposes upon us, and so utterly averse are we from the reprehensible practice of accepting information "at second hand," and repeating facts on the authority of "mere gossip," that we at once sent down a Commissioner charged with the sole duty of examining into the truth of those accusations. He found them to be untrue; and although we might, if we had been guided by interested motives, have omitted all mention of them, we felt it due to our own honour and to the good we hope to effect by the task we have undertaken, to request our Commissioner to place in his true light a nobleman, against whose character, as we found, an unjust accusation had been levelled. We did this not because Lord Shaftesbury is Lord Shaftesbury; but because, by the best endeavours we can bring to bear on the all-important question of the religious condition of our country, and the efforts made or omitted by those who have the means to make them, to improve it, we feel bound to elicit the truth, and, irrespective of all distinctions of creed, to state it without fear.

Let the *Record* possess its soul in patience. Our Commission is not of that portentous or dangerous character it imagines. We know its good faith, and we have received overwhelming testimonies that the country is prepared for it, asks it, and needs it. The *Record* itself is conscious that, to use its own words, "the present is an age of Commissions;" that "under one name or another, and in one shape or another, a host of inquiries are ever going forward on all the grave questions of the day, political, social, and religious;" that "the special correspondents of the press are in fact a sort of special commissioners." It admits that "no doubt the information which all these busy pens furnish to the community adds greatly to the general information (*sic*), and stimulates interest in matters of the deepest moment." Why should it deny to us the power to bring important facts to light on the frivolous and in truth childish pretext that we have adopted the title of "Commission" as descriptive of our inquiry? It is not true that that title "carries with it at least a semblance of authority which can

never be possessed by a mere private inquiry." It carries with it only the authority with which the character of this journal and the statements of our Commissioners may invest it. Nor indeed can that rightly be called a "private" inquiry whose statements are published to the world, and are certain to be refuted if they are false.

#### THE INDIAN ARMY.

WHEN the Indian army was transferred from the Company to the Crown, it was felt that men who had deserved so well of their country as the officers who commanded it should not suffer by the change. Whatever reason we might have to quarrel with the administration of Indian affairs by the Company, there could be no doubt that braver men than its officers had never led troops to battle; and in the days of the mutiny, when the whole nation awaited with breathless anxiety the arrival of mail after mail, it was thrilled with a just enthusiasm at the courage and heroism with which they contended against overwhelming odds—a heroism which revived the days of chivalry. It would have been a national disgrace if, when these men passed from the service of the Company into that of the Empress of India, it had been proposed that any of their rights should be curtailed. It would have shown ingratitude of the deepest dye, and a spirit of parsimony of which, under such circumstances, a miser would have felt ashamed. But neither did the crown nor the nation for a moment contemplate the perpetration of injustice so disgraceful. By Royal Proclamation, and subsequently by Act of Parliament, the officers of the Indian army were assured that in no single respect should their position be changed by their change of rulers. They were to serve precisely under the same conditions, within the same territorial limits only, and for the same terms only, as before; and, to use the words of the Act of Parliament, they were to be "entitled to the like pay, pensions, allowances, and privileges, and the like advantages as regards promotion and otherwise, as if they had continued in the service of the said Company."

Language could not be stronger or clearer than this. But clear as it is, the intentions of Parliament and the wishes of the country have been set at naught by the Secretary of State for India. Sir Charles Wood has taken into his own hands the regulation of the officers of the late Indian army, has broken the express engagement into which the Legislature entered with them, has stopped their promotion, deprived them of their privileges, and—the word is not at all too strong—has actually robbed them of money which they have invested on the faith of the British Government. While the Indian army was under the rule of the Company promotion was by seniority, and such a thing as the supersession of a senior by a junior officer was unknown, except in the single instance of the former being degraded by sentence of court-martial. It has been the practice, moreover, for the officers of a regiment to make up a contribution for retiring officers, with the view both to accelerate promotion and to place the retiring officer in more easy circumstances than his pension would secure to him; and this practice, which was almost as old as the Indian army itself, was sanctioned by the Company and by the Board of Control. It was, therefore, one of the privileges both of retiring officers and of the officers whom it promoted, and who thus earned their promotion by a money payment. Such a practice might have degenerated into an abuse. It might have so hastened the retirement of officers as unduly to increase the number of pensions. But that it never reached that point we have indisputable proof in an official document of 1838, by which it appears that the Company and the Government—for in such a matter their joint consent was inseparable—had expressly considered the question, and found that the system of bonuses to retiring officers had not reached the point at which it could be regarded as prejudicial to the pension list; but was a good and salutary system with which it was not advisable to interfere. Under it the officers of the Indian army may be said in part to have purchased their commissions; and no Government, unless a very dishonest one, would think of depriving them of what is, in fact, a property which they hold by the sanction of the Crown, of the Company, and of Parliament, without making them compensation, which they have a right to demand to the extent of £300,000. But Sir Charles Wood, placing himself above the Legislature, and above, or below, all considerations of honesty and fair dealing, has confiscated this property. He has constituted a staff corps by which, contrary to the guarantee of Parliament, he has completely upset all the rules and regulations which have governed promotion in the Indian army ever since its formation; has enabled junior officers to take precedence in rank and pay



of their seniors, stopping promotion by retaining on the cadres of their regiments officers transferred to the staff corps; and, as a consequence, has deprived the officers not transferred of a right which under the sanction of Government they had purchased.

This is not the unsupported complaint of the officers. Their case has been investigated by a Royal Commission: not quite *their* case, for Sir Charles Wood took care that the Commission should have before it his own statement of the alterations he had made in their position, and would not permit the Committee which acted on their behalf to see or remark upon that statement. It was therefore essentially an *ex-parte* one. But, one-sided as it was, the Commissioners decided that Sir Charles had not adhered to the Acts of Parliament which provided for the preservation of the rights and privileges of the Indian officers, but had violated them in five most important particulars—in the supersession of local officers by officers who had entered the staff; in retaining the names of officers who had joined the new line regiments from native cavalry and infantry regiments on the lists of their old corps, thereby obstructing promotion in those corps; in retaining the names of lieutenant-colonels who had retired from the service on the list governing promotion, thereby obstructing and delaying promotion long since due; in fixing at too long a period the average time for regulating the promotion of lieutenant-colonel to colonel; and in amalgamating the general and field-officers of the regular army with officers of similar rank in the Indian army. Such was the judgment of the Commission upon Sir Charles Wood's *ex-parte* statement of the facts. But so wedded was he to his own notions, so determined to set himself above the Legislature, and so little sensible of what even a Secretary of State owes to his own honour, that, although under Parliamentary pressure he promised to conform to the decision of the Commissioners, and redress the wrongs it had pointed out, he broke his word, and while remedying two out of the five acts of injustice—the second and fifth—of which the Commissioners found him guilty, persisted, and still persists, in the other three.

Such in general terms is the complaint which the officers of the Indian army unanimously bring against him. On Tuesday next the House of Commons will be asked in effect to say whether it will permit the Secretary of State for India to take its laws into his own hands and tinker them at his will. Never was there a greater breach of faith perpetrated in the name of the Crown against those who can quote, in support of their violated rights, a Royal proclamation and the solemn decisions of Parliament. Never was there a body of officers who better deserved generous treatment, or who have been dealt with in a spirit more paltry, pettifogging, and dishonest. It will be for Lord Palmerston to say whether he will suffer Sir Charles Wood to resist the motion for inquiry into the complaints of the Indian officers, which Lord Elcho will bring before the House on Tuesday, and by doing so send his Ministry to the country with claims which are not very strong as they stand, but which will be immeasurably weakened should it be found that the Prime Minister sympathizes with and is ready to support not merely a breach of the law, but acts of broken faith towards the men whose valour preserved India for us when we were within an ace of losing it. But should his lordship prove so untrue to himself as to rush upon this peril, then it will be for the House of Commons to say whether it will suffer its acts to be rendered nugatory by the meddling and dishonesty of an incompetent Secretary of State.

#### THE ROAD MURDER.

It is now nearly five years since the occurrence of the Road murder. No crime perpetrated during the present generation excited greater horror or more painful interest. The cause of this is obvious, when we remember the tender age of the victim, the fact that his life was taken in the midst of his family, and the probability, if not the certainty, that it was by one of that family he was killed. The impression thus created upon the public mind was heightened by the controversies to which the conduct of the police gave rise, and by their failure to solve the mystery in which this terrible domestic tragedy was involved. Nor even at this distance of time had that impression altogether faded away, when it was revived the other day by the appearance at the Bow-street Police-court of Constance Emily Kent in the character of a self-accusing murderess. But although the crime has never been forgotten, its details must have escaped the memory of most of our readers; and it will probably be acceptable to them if we preface what we have now to say on the subject by reminding them very briefly of what actually took place in the Wiltshire country-house during the night of the 29th of June, 1860.

Road House was at that time inhabited by Mr. Kent, who held the office of factory inspector. Including three servants, his family consisted of twelve persons. He had been married twice, and, besides his wife and her three children, there were in the house three daughters and a son by a former wife. The murdered child, Francis Saville Kent, belonged to the second family, and was four years old. Constance Emily Kent, the youngest daughter of the first family, was then about fifteen. On the night in question, Francis was sleeping as usual in a cot by the side of his nurse's bed, in a room on the second floor. Early in the morning the servant discovered that he had been taken away, and that one of the blankets of his cot was also missing. According to her own statement, she thought that her mistress must have fetched him, and it is certain that about half-past seven o'clock she knocked at the door of Mr. and Mrs. Kent's bedroom on the first floor, and asked for the child. He was not there, however, and although search was immediately made, it was some time before his dead body, wrapped in a blanket taken from the cot, was found in the privy opening from the garden. The throat was cut from ear to ear; there were two or three wounds on the body, and there were also marks of strangulation on the throat. There was nothing to show where the strangling, or attempted strangling, took place; but the wounds had obviously been inflicted in the privy, because a large quantity of blood was found there and nowhere else. As one of the windows of the drawing-room on the ground-floor was open when the loss of the child was discovered, it was at first supposed that some one might have entered from without, and so have committed the crime. But that notion was almost immediately discarded—and on very substantial grounds. No conceivable motive could be assigned for a stranger's murdering an inoffensive little child. Moreover, it was for various reasons clear that the deed must have been done by some one who was exceedingly well acquainted with the house; was not afraid of attracting attention if discovered in the nurse's bed-room; and was able to pass without alarming a fierce watch-dog, who was loose in the garden. Which, then, of the inmates of the house was most likely to have been the murderer? It was generally agreed that a girl or woman must have been concerned in the affair, because after the blanket in which the child's body was wrapped, had been taken from between the sheet and counterpane, the latter had been folded down with a neatness and care that a man was unlikely to exhibit. But there were two opposing theories as to which of the females of the family was the guilty person, or one of the guilty persons. The police almost immediately came to the conclusion that Constance Emily Kent was the murderess. They insisted that she was moved to the crime by dislike of her step-mother, and by extreme love for her brother William, whose prospects she feared might be injured through her father's preference for the younger son. But it was never satisfactorily shown that Constance did entertain any animosity to her step-mother; and there was some ground for believing that she was attached to the murdered child. There was certainly no proof of any such animosity on her part towards either the one or the other as would be likely to lead to the commission of murder. Still less was there any proof that she had, in fact, done the deed. Some suspicion was at first excited by one of her nightdresses being missing, but two witnesses who saw it after the murder proved that it was not stained with blood. That being so, it became extremely difficult to understand how it was possible for this young lady to be the murderess. For it was obvious that in that case some article of her dress must have been covered with blood; but nothing of the kind could be found, nor was there reason to suppose that any portion of her wardrobe had been abstracted. Under these circumstances, the public were well satisfied when the magistrates discharged Constance Kent; nor did the police escape censure for taking her into custody. The other theory to which we have alluded implicated the nurse, Elizabeth Gough, and gave her, as accomplice, Mr. Kent himself. Those who held this view of the case supposed that a criminal intercourse existed between these two persons; that they had been disturbed by the cries of the child; that they had accidentally smothered it while simply trying to stifle the noise; and that they, or one of them, had afterwards inflicted the wounds in order to throw the suspicion upon some one out of the house. But although Elizabeth Gough was taken before the magistrates, only one atom of evidence which affected her in the slightest degree could be produced. It was said that a piece of flannel found with the child exactly fitted the nurse's chest, and that it bore marks leading to the conclusion that it belonged to her. But, even assuming that this was so, the presence of the flannel near the body of the child by no means proved that it had been carried there by its owner. As for the cardinal point of this theory—the alleged intimacy between the



nurse and Mr. Kent—it rested from first to last upon mere supposition, without having, so far as we know, any countenance from fact. This theory, therefore, broke down like the other, and until Tuesday last we were entirely without clue to the perpetrator of the Road murder.

If we can place reliance upon Miss Kent's confession, we now know who did the deed, although we are still ignorant why, or in what way, it was done. But while we admit that great weight must always be given to confessions deliberately made and firmly persisted in, there seem to us many reasons for hesitating to repose complete confidence in the one now before us. Indeed, no one acquainted with our criminal annals will ever place such confidence in any confession which is not borne out by some corroborative facts. Nothing is more extraordinary than the mania for self-accusation which seizes upon some minds, and hurries them into making the most unfounded charges against themselves. It is possible that such corroborative evidence as we require may be produced before the Wiltshire magistrates; but at present we have nothing but a bare confession of guilt on the one side, while on the other there are all the difficulties which we have already pointed out as attaching to the theory of Miss Kent's guilt. Nor is that all. We know that her mother, grandmother, and uncle were insane, and it may therefore be taken as certain that insanity runs in her family, and that she is liable to be attacked by it. Under such circumstances nothing can be more likely than that after years of brooding over the terrible and mysterious crime by which her own happiness and that of her family were destroyed, she should have become the prey to a maniacal delusion that hers was the murderous hand. If there is one thing more than another likely to foster such a delusion, it is residence for two years in a religious house where the practice of auricular confession prevails. Any tendency in that direction must have been greatly increased by the discipline of such an establishment, even although the clergyman to whom confession was made may have acted with perfect propriety, and may have done nothing whatever to stimulate self-accusation. We do not, however, feel quite satisfied on the latter point. For the present we will accept Mr. Wagner's statements that he did not induce Constance Kent to come to confession in the first instance, and that he did not put into her head the idea of taking upon herself the guilt of the Road murder. But it is, nevertheless, possible that after she once came to confession, the manipulation to which her conscience was subjected, may have rendered it morbid, and have led her (without any intention on the part of Mr. Wagner) to the point at which she seems to have arrived about a fortnight ago. How she came to make the confession which she then did, in what words it was originally contained, and whether the idea of surrendering herself to justice was, if not directly, yet indirectly, suggested to her, are all points upon which the fullest investigation must take place, and upon some of which we cannot in the meantime help entertaining the gravest doubts. We must confess that we regard with extreme suspicion a judicial confession which has been previously filtered through one of those gentlemen who are playing at being Roman Catholic priests. That there has been such a process of filtration in the present case is perfectly clear from the language in which Miss Kent's statement is couched. No one who knows anything of women, or of the way in which women write, will ever believe that the document handed in to Sir Thomas Henry was the spontaneous and unassisted composition of a girl of twenty-one. Here it is:—

"I, Constance Emilie Kent, alone and unaided, on the night of the 29th of July, 1860, murdered, at Road-hill House, Wiltshire, Francis Saville Kent. Before the deed no one knew of my intentions, nor after it of my guilt. No one assisted me in the crime, nor in evasion of the discovery."

Nothing more comprehensive, terse, and exact in language could have been drawn by the best criminal pleader at the bar. It is evident that the writer had present to his mind exactly the questions which a lawyer would ask on hearing of a crime—was it committed by one or more persons? and were there any accessories before or after the fact? Nor could any lawyer have answered such questions negatively in apter or more conclusive terms. But that is just what a young girl—especially a young girl bowed down by a crushing weight of guilt—would never have done. A confession springing directly from her own heart, and shaping itself in her own words, would have been at once more vague and more detailed. There are in the language of this document palpable indications of a foreign hand and a strange influence;—of a hand and an influence, too, upon which we look with the utmost distrust and jealousy when we see them touching the conscience of a woman. It is almost unnecessary to say that these considerations do not lead us to regret the confession of

Constance Kent. It is quite conceivable that it may, after all, turn out to be true. But until we have much stronger reasons for believing it than exist at present, we shall continue to regard it with extreme scepticism.

#### ON DONS.

THERE have appeared of late, in the columns of one of our contemporaries, a number of "Sketches from Cambridge," describing various kinds of undergraduates, and professedly written by "A Don." If Dons take it into their heads to draw fancy pictures of undergraduates, they must expect to be drawn in return, and though the subject is too wide to be adequately dealt with in the space of an article, we propose to look at one or two sides of it. In the first place, it may be asked, what is a Don? Definitions are notoriously difficult of construction, especially if the thing to be defined be familiar to every one. If the general impression of the world could be got hold of, it would probably be found that a Don is looked upon as a man who has married a wifeless dowry, and proves a most uxorious spouse, with views of Tertullianesque vigour on the question of monogamy; and, as usual, the world would not be so very far wrong from its own point of view, though, of course, there are numberless other ways of looking at him—even as the preacher, who had exhausted every phase of the character of Abraham, crushed the hopes of his audience by announcing that he would next treat of him, at some length, as a country gentleman. From the most formal point of view, a Don is a resident fellow, who is connected with the tuition or the discipline of his college; but, for ordinary purposes, the title may serve for all resident fellows, whether in office or not. The non-gremial fellow has no share in the name.

In former times the Don was a much more marked man than he now appears to be. There was once a tolerably strong presumption that any given Don would prove, on investigation, to be a man of uncouth appearance, whose tongue might indeed have many uses, but among them conversation in mixed society would certainly not be one; and his exterior favoured the supposition that he had made a bargain with the residuary legatee of some garmental Israelite of a past generation. He was strictly *sui generis*, there was no one like him, and, often, no one who liked him. But now that so general an amalgamation is taking place among all classes of society, the Don has assumed a drawing-room tongue, and appears in a convenient tail-coat—sometimes, it is true, by daylight, and in public promenades; and when any social gaieties are going on, he is much like the rest of the world, and at times "rather more so,"—indeed several firsts have recently displayed an intimate practical acquaintance with terpsichorean evolutions; and in the sister University, a senior wrangler has been known to achieve a quadrille with very considerable success, passing through even the ordeal of the *cavalier seul*. There is still, nevertheless, something distinctive in the average Don. He naturally wears the shape of his groove, and not all the rubs of the world succeed in rubbing off his edges,—nor have we any wish that so excellent a shape should be destroyed. But he has to so great an extent ceased to form a distinct species in society, that we must look at him only under the wing of his Alma Mater, where he, and his position, and his work, are of course unique, as compared with the rest of the world. And it is interesting thus to follow him to his stronghold, for there he is engaged in exercising a large influence—by attraction or by repulsion—on the most important section of the young men of this country.

The great problem of the time would seem to be—"what a change!" some stout incumbent will say—how far a Don may or can lay himself out to do some personal good to the young men, who, in one way or other, come within the sphere of his possible influence. And, after all, this problem can only be solved for individual cases, for no general laws can govern a matter of such exceeding delicacy. Nor is any individual Don able to solve it once for all for himself; for if the men of one year are happily susceptible of general influence for good, it by no means follows that the next year will bring a succession of like character; and it is a thankless task—more than that, it is often the cause of much harm to one side and to the other—to attempt influence where it is coldly or pertinaciously resisted. There are well-meaning Dons who know only one Procrustean method, and blandly work this with men of all shades of opinion and power, forgetting that experiments which succeed in air do not always succeed in vacuum; and there are men in all ranks of society, usually of a certain pronounced character of religious temperament, who having found that oil will calm



the waves, incontinently pour it with pacific intentions upon the flames. Some discrimination is necessary, for if a tutor be uniformly repellent, he has small chance of influencing his men as he would; and if he be bland and sweet alike to all, with mere facial sweetness and blandness, the scoffers care not for his pleasantness, and in the eyes of the thoughtful it has little value.

No one who knows anything about the matter could wish to see the barrier, which separates the Don from the Undergraduate, in any material sense broken down. All sane persons hold in great distrust the man who incites his undergraduates to the familiarity of equals, and it is impossible that much good can come of a state of things in which a Don is on terms of freest familiarity with men one day, whom he has to summon to his rooms the next for scant attendance at the college chapel, or knocking in at unstatutable hours. But of almost equal danger, in the opposite direction, is the conduct of the man who is always in starch and buckram, and may be supposed to broil his private slice of bacon with dignity, and to take dignity to bed with him. We apprehend that the highest aim of a resident Don should be to make his rooms the natural resort of any one of his men, of whatever rank or class of opinion, who may be in serious doubt or distress; and in such cases an exalted nose is no less negative a pole than jocular familiarity. And with regard to the possibility of men getting privately good advice from their Dons, it is sad to hear a man of unimpeachable moral character say of his college, when he is passing away to his curacy, that he loves it, and is proud of it, and will never let a slighting word respecting it pass unnoticed and unanswered in his presence; but never, never will he send brother or son of his there, for whom a personal moral influence for good from those above him is in any special way necessary. And still more sad to hear him counting up the colleges to which he could with confidence send so dear a trust, and find him, with the exaggeration of an earnest spirit in distress, not exhausting the third finger of one hand in telling the tale. And one may hear a young clergyman at a visitation say, "The bishop was tutor of my college when I first went up, but my scout was the only man it ever struck me to consult when I was in difficulty;" while a younger man rejoins, "Ah, he was master in my time, and only knew three men in college by sight; two of whom squinted so grotesquely, that they did not relish the honour of his unwonted recognitions."

A novel and very doubtful feature has recently been introduced, by the permission to marry, which, in one way or other, so many colleges in the Universities have accorded to their fellows. We hold it to be absurd to talk of the evils of celibacy in connection with fellowships; for it is not celibacy in itself that is mischievous, but that enforced celibacy which all the world knows may never, under any circumstances, end. The fact is, that in England celibate men are always looked upon as *able* to marry, and are admitted to no situations and circumstances to which a marrying man may not be admitted; whereas the celibate priests of Rome have no such safeguard in themselves or in the world around them, and on them fall the evils which are thoughtlessly imputed to a voluntary terminable celibacy. What a number of cheery old bachelors one meets in the course of a dinner season, each worth twice as much as the average paterfamilias of like age, though, of course, the latter provides a much larger share of the general brightness of society in the shape of young plants and polished corners. No more pleasant creature of his age is found on the face of the earth than the elderly lay fellow in non-matrimonial colleges, who can never hold a living, and so can never marry on anything the college can do for him. And how useful such men are to nephews who require a start in the world; what delightful trinkets they are good for on nieces' birthdays; and how charmingly plethoric a matter is their residuary legatee-ship. By far more discontented are the clerical fellows whose heads are growing grey, and on whom the charms of epistolary correspondence with the waning beauties who captivated their fancy in youth are beginning to pall,—hope deferred making the heart sick and the eye faithful. Nor are those men usually accounted happy—whether lay or cleric, fellows or not fellows—whose tastes in the matrimonial line are higher than their means, who live a semi-sentimental life of single blessedness, from no preference of the unmarried state, but merely because they are unable to afford a pair of calves and a brougham, and doubt their being happy with a woman who could be contented with less, and might sometimes be seen in a state short of perfect tidiness in her necessary endeavours to be domestically useful. This sort of feeling is undoubtedly generated and encouraged by the comparative luxury of a resident fellow's life.

It would be well that Baxter's third stipulation with his intended, or, rather, intending wife, should be incorporated, with a slight alteration, in the statutes of all colleges which allow their tutors to marry, "that she expect none of his time which his ministerial employment shall call for." If they do not take care, some colleges will have their tutor living in a West-end square, and coming down by the morning express on such days as his wife can spare him. And even the man who can find a convenient house nearer his work, cannot be expected to do much towards keeping up the pleasant companionable society of his college; for when he is first married, it is not to be supposed that the celibate luxury of a college hall, or the once irresistible glint of common-room port, can have any chance against that novel *tête-à-tête* feeding on love; and although as time rolls on, and things develop themselves, he is restored to his lost perceptions, he has by that time been brought into such excellent domestic training, that he seldom dreams of leave of absence, and still more seldom is it granted. The brain refuses to grasp the idea of the tutor's son in for an open scholarship, with the attendant conjugal pressure upon examining paternity, and eventually, perhaps, himself become a fellow, triumphantly outvoting the governor at college meetings.

We propose to say a few words next week on some particular classes of Dons.

#### MAYPOLES.

WE do not believe in the "good old times," but we do believe in good old Maypoles; in other words, we hold that the old times were *not* good, but that there were some good things in them. Without going back to the days when the people, led by their priests, marched in procession on the morning of the 1st of May to some neighbouring wood, and returned all jubilant with their pole decorated with flowers and ribbons—or to those when bluff King Hal assembled his Court on Mayday at Shooter's-hill, and Royal Bess presided at the May games in Greenwich-park, we may safely affirm that when "the tall Maypole" of which Pope speaks "o'erlooked the Strand," and the people danced around it to the disgust of all godly Puritans, their life was on the whole far fuller of hardship and privation than that of the lower orders in our own time. England was then "Merrie England" if you will, yet boisterous merriment is too often only the reaction of sullenness and gloom. The wages of the peasant were not more than half what they are now, while the price of most necessities of life were more than double. Meat was cheaper than at present, yet still so dear that hundreds of thousands of families scarcely ever tasted it. Yeomen and shopkeepers ate bread inferior to what is now given to the inmates of a workhouse, the mass of the population lived on barley, oats, and rye, and the poor-rate in the reign of Charles II. was little less than half the entire revenue. Squatters and trespassers abounded, markets were far distant, streets were miserably paved and lighted, surgeons were little better than blacksmiths, physicians simply charlatans—crowded cities were far less wholesome than now, and the duration of human life was much shorter.

Such were the material discomforts of the morris-dancers; their moral and intellectual wants were equally great. Pity and mercy were rare, well-born masters and high dames beat their servants, and the ferule was the chief instrument of instruction. Idiots and madmen were scourged in Bedlam, as if insanity were crime; husbands claimed the right to whip their wives; the wretched man in the pillory was assailed with a shower of brickbats; and crowds pressed on the hangman to urge him to give it well to the fellow who was tied to the cart's tail. Light offences were punished with barbarous penalties; and the prisons, full of stench and pestilence, were hells on earth. Noblemen then were destitute of comforts of which a respectable artisan would not be deprived; and "men," as Macaulay says, "died faster in the lanes of our towns than they now die on the coast of Guinea." Yet even these looked back on a time when civilization was at a lower ebb, and boasted of the progress they had made since the Maypole was first erected in the Strand in 1634. Many changes and chances befel it, for it was an emblem of national mirth. It stood on the site of the present church of St. Clement, and when Cromwell came to power, down it fell as "Satan's Flagstaff." On the first Mayday after the Restoration it rose again 134 feet high with shouts and songs of gladness. The Duke of York was Lord High Admiral, and he, being nowise inclined to Puritanism, lent twelve seamen to assist in raising it. Multitudes went before it from Scotland-yard; flags were



flying, drums throbbing, and music not the most harmonious filled the air. The two halves were joined with iron bands, and a gilt crown and vane were placed on the top. Four hours it took to raise it with tackle and pulleys, and then the purple-scarfed morris-dancers tripped round it with a will to the sound of pipe and tabor, while children laughed and the aged clapped their hands, as if the new Maypole were the harbinger of plenty and peace. There it stood when the dancing and revelry were done; and if the flowers and garlands that adorned it withered, its three great lanterns, in honour of the three admirals, ceased not to glimmer through the dark nights.

Disused and decaying, it was pulled down in 1713, and a new one surmounted with gilt balls and a weathercock took its place, but the spirit of the people was changing; the dancers' feet chased the glowing hours less gaily; merrie England was becoming moody; and in 1718, the Maypole was given to Sir Isaac Newton as a stand for his large French telescope. The age of science and facts was dawning; dreams and dances were failing with the morning light. But the Maypole, though lost to the Strand, still continued to gladden the towns and villages of England, and when the last eve of April closed, many a fair maiden bid her mother wake and call her early on the morrow, which to her—the queen o' the May—was to be the maddest, merriest day of all the glad New-year. Many a Robin from the bridge took his place among the dances shyly, and hopped heavily till his clownish heart leapt into his mouth, and Effie or Kate promised beneath the hazel-tree to be his bride. Thus the Maypole became the trysting-place, and the symbol of all that is sweet, floral, and festive. At last, in the country as in the town, May-day lost its festal character, and no longer broke the dull circle of the year with dance and song, with garlands of honeysuckle and marigold. Manly sports and maidenly pastimes vanished from the village green, harpers and fiddlers hung up their instruments and heard the cords snap one after another for want of use. A cheerless population overspread the land. No reapers sang in the corn-fields; no harvest-home choruses drowned the noise of the creaking wain. If gaiety was sought, it was at the poisoned fountain of fermented liquor; and the beer-house and gin-palace increased on the whole the gloom which for a moment they dispelled.

In Italy we have seen villagers threading the jocund mazes of the dance in the cool of evening with the utmost regularity and decorum, and then dispersing as the shadows deepened without the smallest symptom of disorder. We were surprised at the rustic grace with which their feet, whether shod or bare, kept time to the pulses of the violin, and we could not but contrast their elegant and harmless amusement with the grosser revellings of the English ale-house. Can nothing be done to revive among our peasantry a taste for the sports of the olden time? Shall moody England never be merry again? To address the masses on this subject would be vain, for they take things as they find them, and are unused to habits of reflection. You cannot reason men into that which must be the spontaneous expression of instinctive wants. We appeal rather to the landed gentry—to those who dwell in castles and abbeys, whose very walls seem to ring with the strophes of troubadours from Provence, or the psalmody of choristers and friars—to those whose stately halls lie reflected in broad sheets of crystal water, and stand surrounded by park and copse, by wood and croft—we invite them most respectfully to throw open these verdant recesses more frequently to gentle and simple, to yeoman and hind, to children from the parish school, and the hoary-headed from the almshouse; to mix with them there in their sports; to decorate their Maypole; to link certain days in their memory with glad associations; to compensate to them for weeks and months of unbroken hardship; to inspire them with respect for wealth they can never enjoy; and cause them to contract some measure of refinement by mingling now and then with those who are refined. The example set at the hall will soon be followed at the rectory; and even the rich farmer, who holds the vicarial tithes, will not think his dignity lessened, by assembling his labourers on Mayday morning, and calling Peggy from her "bristled grunterns in the sludge" to join him in keeping up the festivities of the season.

DURING the half-year ending December 31 last, 126,825 letters, and 190,912 newspapers were received at New South Wales by the Peninsular and Oriental Mail steamers, and 251,615 letters and 286,797 newspapers were despatched from New South Wales by those steamers.—*New South Wales Paper.*

ADVICES from Florence state that the colossal statue of Dante has been conveyed to the Piazza Sainte Croce, where the monument is to be erected to the great Florentine poet.

## OUR UNIVERSITY LETTER.

OXFORD.

THE alterations which are being made by the University authorities in the parks are already bearing some fruit. The new foot-path from the south-east corner of the Museum to the point where the lane to Kings' Mill cuts the Marston-road is a great boon, both to the University and city. Besides being a short cut from the upper part of Oxford to all the roads on the other side of the Cherwell, obviating the necessity of crossing Magdalen Bridge and passing through the hideous suburb of St. Clements, it is really a very pretty and picturesque walk. The Cherwell and its branches are crossed three times by rustic bridges, and the path lies for the greater part of its length between the upper and lower streams, with pollard willows on each side. Every here and there a view of Magdalen Tower rising above the elms, or of the long line of New College Chapel, or of the gables of Wadham, makes a pleasant picture. The Cherwell, too, at this higher point, looks bright and clear—a far better river than when it slides through the Christ Church meadows after it has received the tribute of a large sewer at the corner of the Botanical Gardens, and been joined a few yards below by the black channel, which owes its colour to the houses in St. Clements. The authorities of Christ Church have spent considerable sums upon the improvement of the walks through this meadow lately; the river-bank has been quayed with stone to a considerable extent, and the side of the Isis next to the College barges has been guarded with an iron railing. Perhaps the stone-work will quicken the flow of the Cherwell and keep the stream cleaner, but it does not improve the beauty of the banks. An artificial and canal-like look is the result,—

"Ingenuum violarunt marmora tophum."

One improvement begets many. The great level of Port Meadow has been taken in hand with a view to its more effectual drainage; but whether it has been a success or not it is quite impossible to say, when everybody expresses a different opinion about it. Mr. Richard Greswell, of Worcester College, is the gentleman who has principally interested himself with the work, and Port Meadow itself belongs to the Freemen of the City of Oxford; so, probably, the old existing jealousy between City and University prevents justice being done to the work. It is slyly hinted by some persons that the Freemen are in deadly terror of having the land too much improved, lest by some means it might get enclosed. At any rate hard words are bandied about at their meetings, and every week aldermen are rushing into print in the local papers, pointing their shafts with stinging sarcasm, or weighting their artillery with long words like "hydrostatics." It is to be feared that all Mr. Greswell's philanthropy has met with the "thank-you-for-nothing" which is only too common on such occasions. No doubt our Isis is finer, broader, and better for oarsmen than the Cam, yet we lament over it bitterly. Sanitary philosophers weep over the sewage, and know not where to dispose of it; millers grumble at the uncertainty of their water power; navigation companies look rueful at the crumbling banks and the choking American weed; and the adventurous rowing-boat that penetrates far down the stream hears nervously the ominous creaking of lock-gates, and speculates on the probability of their bursting in from their crazy hinges.

This week, the two new proctors have entered on office, Mr. Furneaux of Corpus Christi, and Mr. Capes of Queen's. These gentlemen may be looked to as representing two liberal votes in the Council—a real advantage under present circumstances. When the proctors resign office at the expiration of their year, the senior of the two reviews the events of the last twelve months of University life in a Latin speech. Mr. Edwardes, upon whom the duty devolved this year, merits great praise for having delivered his speech in such simple and straightforward Latinity that there was no difficulty in following his words throughout. And this is no mean praise to give; modern Latin to be enduring must be also easy to construe. It is to be hoped that the allusions to the *effrenata licentia* of undergraduate energies upon Commemoration day, may remind the University authorities that, under this growing infliction, one of the most interesting ceremonies of the academical year has been fast degenerating into an intolerable nuisance. Of late, scarcely any of the visitors or even residents have had a chance of catching the name of the distinguished strangers who have been presented for the honorary degree of D.C.L.; and most of the ladies, the real chromatic adornment of the Sheldon Theatre, have gone away with headaches. But, under the new arrangement of the summer term, it will be possible for undergraduates to go down before Commemoration week, and it is not too much to hope that the attractions of the country may prove a stronger lure than the wish to remain up in Oxford for the sole purpose of howling in the theatre. The new proctors, after being sworn in, make an excursion in full academicals to the different confectioners, livery stable-keepers, and billiard-room proprietors, to warn them not to supply the undergraduates with anything unlawful; and to remind the billiard-markers that no play be allowed out of hours: for, to play billiards before one o'clock, or after nine in the evening (extended sometimes in summer-term to ten), is an offence which, if detected, costs the offender ten shillings; and the proprietor of the rooms, if he frequently permits this, is liable to be discommoded. To discommodate a tradesman is to forbid him to supply any member of a particular college or of the University, as the case may be, for one or more terms; and for any shopkeeper, whose connection is almost exclusively confined to



the University, such a prohibition entails very considerable loss. There is far more general trade in Oxford than there used to be, but still the effect of the long vacation is strongly marked on many of the busiest shops. The Corporation and most of the tradespeople here have joyfully hailed the chance of an additional 4,000 inhabitants, if the Great Western Railway Company decide on establishing their principal locomotive works in this city. The choice lies between Oxford, Reading, and Banbury, and all members of the University devoutly hope one of the latter spots may be selected; for, from their point of view, it is difficult to believe how the change would improve a University town. It might cause a little more lively work on the 5th of November, which some young athletes would consider cheaply purchased at any price, but for the University, that represents the whole of the advantage. It is an interesting question, what line the new proctors propose to adopt respecting University dress. Is it to be enforced, or suffered to drop? The traditional plan for the last few years has been—in the forenoon to send back to college any one not in cap and gown, and on meeting him a second time to fine him; after dark, the cap and gown must be worn, or the fine is levied at once. Of course, from two o'clock till dark there are no restrictions about dress, and as the proctors are not often abroad in the morning, a stranger would think that the academical dress was almost entirely gone out of fashion. Christ Church, in its anxiety to draw a sharp line between the *House* and the University—between men of the House and “squills,” as a Christ Church man would say—has an inflexible law, of undergraduate promotion, that none of its members should disgrace themselves beyond its walls by wearing cap and gown. As may be imagined, this practice brings in not a little money in the shape of fines to the University chest; but not to the extent of requiring the establishment of a joint-stock company (limited) for their payment, as the *Guardian* was informed a few weeks ago. With laudable consistency Christ Church men have been seen driving in a fly to pay their fines in the proctor's room, that they might not be found violating their own laws in the public streets. They themselves acknowledge the annoyance which this piece of etiquette produces, but it is too strong to be resisted, except by a combination. They ascribe its origin to the compulsory silk gown and gold tassel which the “tuft,” or nobleman, is obliged to wear in academical costume, and which he naturally dislikes. Christ Church has also been the scene of some spirited bread-riots, the insurgents demanding free trade in bread and other eatables. A petition, almost universally signed, has been laid before the Dean, and the case is being investigated.

Speaking of the various schemes on foot for cheapening University education, your Cambridge correspondent alludes this week to the proposal supported by Professors Jacobson and Lightfoot for raising a fund, out of which pecuniary assistance may be given to a number of poor students, without any restriction as to college or hall. This seems to be the only system which can be worked without much party bias. It is impossible not to detect in the schemes of those who advocate a new and cheap college, a design, more or less concealed, of making such a place a religious institution, representing the views of some particular party in or out of the Church. A daily London journal announces “an important project in connection with the extension of University education. . . . A number of leading Nonconformists intend to establish a new hall at Oxford or Cambridge—at Oxford, we suspect—the arrangements of which shall be especially adapted to Dissenters, though it is not intended to be limited to them. The projectors believe it possible to combine a strictly religious constitution with more freedom than at present exists. A remarkable feature of the movement is the fact that it is supported by Mr. Gladstone. According to the monthly organ of the Evangelical Alliance, it is doubtful if the right hon. gentleman did not take the initiative in the matter. At all events, it asserts, he has given his hearty assent to the scheme, and takes an active and cordial part in working out the details.” So much for one side. On the other, an energetic gentleman in Oxford is exerting himself to raise a sum of £100,000 for the purpose of founding a college of the Anglican persuasion, towards which an eminent champion of the Church is said to have contributed £500 from his own purse.

Who is going to be returned for the University at the next election? Why don't we know? Why is Mr. Gathorne Hardy showing his paces to the electors of Leominster? Are they his first loves, or a *pis aller* if he fails to be elected for Oxford? How much truth is there in the statements which have been circulated in certain journals that such an overwhelming majority of Convocation is prepared to vote against the recreant Chancellor of the Exchequer? Lastly, will Mr. Gladstone stand at all? Here is a string of questions which are waiting for replies. But you must not expect “an answer in our next.” It would require a commission into the dark places of the earth, into semi-barbarous villages, accompanied by a clairvoyant, to know what name the Rev. the Curate of Boetia-in-the-Marsh will write on his proxy paper. This year, 1865, will be the first time that the proxy papers are to be used, and there are not a few thoughtful politicians who think that they will prove the ruin of University elections. Certainly it is quite possible to have passed what is humorously called “a University career,” and to put M.A. after one's name, without possessing a tittle of interest in the University, still less having the remotest idea of its requirements. Indeed, it has struck some malcontents that the constitution of Oxford congregation is not absolutely perfect, and that it is not wholly satisfactory that a vote on purely educational questions, for instance, should be

able to be carried against the tutors and professors by a coalition of M.A.'s, who have no connection with the educational working of the University, but who always have a vote ready to give to the beck of a party leader. Universal suffrage does not always give the most satisfactory vote in Oxford. The qualification for a vote in Convocation is residence, or rather “pernoctation,” as counsel has ruled it, within a mile and a half of Carfax, which limit takes in a portion of the new family suburb, Park Town, and includes the City and County Prisons, so that a temporary incarceration in either of these calm retreats carries with it a vote for any aspiring M.A., and there seems to be nothing in the University statutes to prevent the police-van drawing up as near as possible to the Convocation-house at two o'clock, and the energetic voter recording his views between two stout constables, who can then conduct him once more to the dignity of his close carriage. The constables could either come in as distinguished strangers, or could wait in the Apodyterium.

## THE “LONDON REVIEW” CHURCH COMMISSION.

### No. IV.—DIOCESE OF SALISBURY (*continued*).

BEFORE we take leave of the diocese of Salisbury, let us look at the state of religion in one of its most interesting towns—TROWBRIDGE. It is a cloth-manufacturing town of between 11,000 and 12,000 inhabitants, and seems to combine in an unusual degree all the elements which would render an investigation into its moral and religious condition, as influenced by the Church and by Dissent, both interesting and instructive. Trowbridge is a highly suggestive specimen of the working of the two systems. It combines all the features of English society, both new and old, within a compass which can be easily grasped. It is not, like many of the northern manufacturing hives of industry, of wholly modern origin, for it has been a clothier-town ever since Henry VIII. It is an ancient and well-endowed rectory, and in it the Established Church is fully represented. It is also situated in a delightful rural district, and amidst pastoral and agricultural scenes. The manufacturing interest here, though prosperous, has not overtopped and dwarfed all other interests; but the various elements are here found, side by side, in wholesome activity. Happier circumstances could scarcely be found. A successful manufacture has brought into Trowbridge considerable wealth, and effectually saved it from the stagnation of a common country town. At the same time, agricultural and aristocratic influences are close at hand and all around it, and thus relieve it from that harsh predominance of a pure democracy which one often observes in the north. The physical influences, too, are eminently cheering; the green fields and a sweetly undulating country are visible from all parts of the town, and are immediately accessible. How would the factory hands of Preston, or Oldham, or Wigan, or Bolton—to say nothing of such huge oppressive cities as Manchester and Glasgow, oppressive by reason of their extent and almost interminableness—envy the operative of Trowbridge, who has probably a garden attached to his cottage, or, if he has not, can get out at once into real country, and revel amid the fresh and unspoiled beauties of nature! Exquisite scenery, too, is within easy reach, for at Bradford-on-Avon, only two miles off, commences the romantic Avondale; and all the country thence to Bath, seven miles away, is one scene of enchantment.

It appears to us, then, that all happy, social, and physical influences meet in Trowbridge. Let us now come to the interior, and see what we find there. We shall find all the defects and weaknesses, as well as all the solidity and strong points, of the English character fully brought out in this old town. It is an eminently *English* town, with as few foreign ingredients as it is possible to find; for neither Scotch, Irish, nor Welsh resort hither, still less any Continentals. We doubt whether a choicer specimen of British *insularity* in religion and scope of thought could be found anywhere. We have the Church, Baptists, Independents, Wesleyans, and no Roman Catholics.

Trowbridge has, during the last half century, had experience of different kinds of ecclesiastical influence in its last three rectors. The first of these was Crabbe, the poet, who was rector from 1814 to 1832. His patron was the Duke of Rutland. The poet was of the old high and dry school, general and particular, and was wholly averse to Evangelical doctrines and tendencies. He taught what he considered the plain path to heaven, and encumbered it with no thorns or obstructions of any kind, though he enlightened it by his strong natural sagacity and keen discernment of human character. He was much beloved, and his great doctrine was charity. It is a doctrine, however, of slow growth in the religious mind of this country. He did not live to see the rise of Tractarianism, nor would he have



sympathized with it if he had. His interest lay among the real sorrows and the pathetic scenes of actual experience. High-fliers of all kinds would have denounced him as a mere "natural" man; but Crabbe was satisfied to find his favourite theme in charity, and counted doctrines as mere chaff compared with deeds.

To him succeeded Mr. Fulford, a man imbued with all the tastes and predilections of the then rising Oxford School. He has since become Bishop of Fredericton, in New Brunswick. Trowbridge found in him a very direct, frank, and sincere man, as inhabitants who remembered him testified to us; but he was too short a time rector to leave any deep or abiding influence, more especially as the advowson fell into new hands, who introduced a rector of the opposite school—the Rev. J. D. Hastings, who succeeded to the living in 1841, and still holds it. The clergy list states the living to be in the patronage of trustees; but we were assured in the town that Mr. Hastings had purchased it, and that his intention was well known to devise it to the Simeon Trustees. His strong party predilections render this report extremely credible, especially as he has no family. We were happy to find that his incumbency has been fruitful in undertakings of a very tangible kind, and for which he is highly and justly extolled in the town. The first and greatest of these is the complete restoration of the parish church. It is a noble and spacious structure of the 14th century, with nave, chancel, and transepts. There is a low tower surmounted with a lofty spire. This fine building was closely hemmed in on all sides by houses, and still further obscured by an ugly brick wall. It is now laid completely open to view. Houses, which intercepted the view of it, have been pulled down; a new road has been constructed on the east side; the ugly brick wall has been replaced by a low stone wall with embrasures. From the view thus presented the church is a gem, and would be accounted beautiful and impressive in any place; nor has the interior been neglected. The frightful old pewing has all been swept away, as well as the galleries, and now there are only low and open seats, and no galleries. The organ is on the floor. The singers, twenty-four in number, men and boys equally, are ranged on opposite sides of the nave before a long desk, on which lie their music books. There is no puritanical disregard of æsthetic influences, for there are several beautiful painted windows. Mr. Hastings has done this part of his work admirably well; by his zeal he has succeeded in giving to the town a noble and pleasant sanctuary, the very sight of which must be a cheering and elevating influence even to those who never enter the building to worship. The restoration took place in 1848, and cost £7,500, all raised in the parish.

Nor is this the only *material* improvement effected by Mr. Hastings. He has raised a very handsome building for the National School, contiguous both to the church and the rectory-house. It commands the fine view of the church of which we have just spoken, and fills the site of some wretched buildings, among which was a public house, which formerly brought vice and revelry into immediate proximity to the house of God. Now is heard there the pleasant school-hum of children or their hymns. These two great improvements deserve to be recorded to the honour of Mr. Hastings, who suggested and accomplished them.

But we regret that we have some things against him. The pew-renting system is rampant in Trowbridge church. No effort seems to have been made to abolish it, or even to restrain and control it. All the ancient parish churches of the kingdom ought surely to be free, whatever may be the case of more modern erections. What is a National Church for but to supply free worship to the nation? The old parish churches, at all events, are national buildings; and if so, how unjust is it that they should be monopolized by pew-renters! Dr. Arnold would have opened our churches for the use of all denominations. He may have been wrong there, and such an indiscriminate use of the same sanctuary by different and hostile sections of the Christian community might jar upon our feelings. But, surely, the parish church ought to be free for all members of what calls itself a National Church. Yet, the pew-renting system—that *scabies ecclesiarum*, as we may well term it—flourishes unchecked in Trowbridge. It exists in the parish church just as much as in the chapels of ease. To this fact it is doubtless in some measure to be attributed that the bulk of the Trowbridge mill hands and of the lower classes generally follow Dissent rather than the Church, and train up their children in alienation from the Establishment? Perhaps it will be said that the Dissenting forms of worship are more congenial to uneducated minds, and that it is not a question of paying at all. Is, then, the Church of England to be content to be a Church for the *genteel*

classes of the nation, and to resign all hope of obtaining the affections of the masses? This seems an unworthy position for any Church to take, and, moreover, to involve a dangerous argument in the case of an Establishment. If the latter be by comparison so distasteful to the masses of the nation, whatever may be its attractions for the more cultivated tastes of the higher classes, then the argument for its continuance is greatly weakened, if not altogether destroyed. The foundation principle of Christianity is the equality of all souls before God, and a National Church which despairs of inclosing the masses within its embrace, abjures thereby its real nationality, and cuts away the reason of its very existence. A free and open parish church is, at all events, an invitation to all; but a church of rented pews repels rather than invites, and really belongs to the *congregation*, and not to the parish at large. It belongs to the rich and well-to-do, and not to the poor, who are the immense majority; or, in other words, the use of a handsome edifice is given to that section of the parish which is the smallest and the best able to dispense with assistance, whereas it is denied to those who need it most and who are least able to provide it for themselves. Thus the very object of a National Establishment is defeated.

Now, what excuse can there be for pew-renting in the parish church of Trowbridge? There is a handsome and extensive rectory-house close to the church, and standing in its own grounds. The *Clergy List* returns the income of the living at £600. The rector, indeed, keeps two curates, one of whom serves St. Stephen's Chapel. But we are not necessarily to suppose that the rector of Trowbridge is without private fortune. The late Archbishop Sumner said in one of his charges that the clergy brought as much private income into the Church as they derived from it. We can find no excuse, then, for hiring out nearly the whole of the interior of Trowbridge Church. There may be some "faculty pews," and, indeed, we were told that one whole aisle belonged to one estate in the possession of Mr. Clark, the clothier. We cannot but think that this abomination might have been extinguished by the parish purchasing such "faculty pews," if there had really existed a general desire to abolish the nuisance. As it is, however, Trowbridge parish church is really *congregational*, and not *parochial*. It ought rather to be a free and open sanctuary for all the inhabitants; the religious home of every one who chooses to enter it. Let other places of worship be exclusive; but the bells of the ancient parish church ought every Sabbath morning to ring out a glad welcome for all to come who will.

But Trowbridge has an Evangelical rector, and the Evangelical clergy in general look coldly on any attempts to abolish the pew-renting system. There are, however, two eminent exceptions. Dr. Close, Dean of Carlisle, and Dr. Magee, Dean of Cork, have lately come out strongly against pew-renting, and advocate free and open churches. It cannot be that they do not understand the system which they now heartily denounce, for at Bath and Cheltenham they pursued it themselves for many years. They understand it only too well, and knowing, they abominate it. But, as a rule, the Evangelical clergy set their faces steadfastly against the freer and nobler system? Why is this? We shall find that party feeling and party theology naturally tends to build up a *congregational* system, as opposed to a free and national one. Party theology practically narrows the invitation to those who hold *certain views*, and then follows quite naturally the monopoly of the church by pew-renters. A broader or *un-party* theology in the same way tends to dispose the holder of it towards a freer invitation and an open church.

There seems no movement or desire in Trowbridge for a change. Both in church and chapel Evangelical and Calvinistic views are dominant—we may say, proudly dominant. This is not too strong a phrase, for out of twelve places of worship, seven belonging to Dissent and five to the Church, only two congregations can be excepted. One of these, Trinity church (Rev. Digby Walsh, incumbent), is considered High Church, and of course anti-Calvinistic. It is not so well attended as the others, though the Trinity district embraces 2,374 souls. The Bishop of Salisbury preaches here when he comes to Trowbridge, owing, no doubt, to the doctrinal preference. There are three other church-chapels, St. Stephen's, Staverton, and Studley, with congregations of a few hundreds each. All these follow the lead of the parish church, and are partly served by its curates; four out of the five churches in the town and suburbs are reported to us as strongly Evangelical and Calvinistic. The Genevan theology is the favourite one here, both within and without the Establishment. The whole body of the clergy, without one exception, are spoken of with respect as good and sincere men. The curates are active in household visitation;



but it is remarked that the rector does not visit the poor at all. We were sorry to hear it.

The Dissenting body, in spite of an adequate representation of the Church in its five sanctuaries, is numerous and powerful in Trowbridge. Several master mill owners are Dissenters. Mr. Brown (Brown and Palmer), of the largest firm in the town, is a Dissenter. Of their seven chapels, five belong to the Baptists, one to the Wesleyans, and one to the Independents. One tone of doctrine is found in them all, with one exception—that of the Conigree chapel. Of this chapel we shall hereafter speak, for it has a singular history. Calvinism obtains here in shades lighter or darker, but all pretty strongly pronounced—for even the Wesleyan minister is said not to teach a bold and outspoken Arminianism, but one modified and toned down by the infusion of many grains of the predestinarian theory. Wesleyanism, however, is rather languid in Trowbridge. The bolder doctrine of the Baptists is preferred. That taught at Zion chapel is said to be Calvinism in its strongest and, one would think, its gloomiest form. We were assured by a minister of long standing in the town, that downright antinomianism is inculcated in this chapel. The congregation is about 500 in number, and have no settled minister, nor have they had one since the death of Mr. Warburton, who died eight years ago. Yet they keep well together, bound close in the bonds of antinomianism. We were assured that one reason why they have no permanent minister is that “they can get no one high enough and strong enough for them!” As a sample of their tone of feeling, we were told that “they think it wrong to teach children the Lord’s Prayer”—for “how do we know that the child is not a vessel of wrath predestined to eternal damnation?” It is shocking to have to state such a fact, but it is nevertheless true—too true. Perhaps in the whole kingdom you would scarcely find a parallel to the unflinching antinomianism of this congregation.

But as a foil to it, and as still more singular in another way, we may instance the Conigree chapel, which belongs to the General Baptists. It is an ancient foundation dating from the Commonwealth. The name Conigree (pronounced Conniger) is of uncertain derivation; some derive it from *conies*—the old word for rabbits—and believe that its site was formerly a rabbit-warren; others derive the name from *könig*, or king, as it was formerly a royal manor. However, one small quarter of Trowbridge is called “the Conigree.” There is a parsonage and a beautiful chapel, which all visitors to the town are requested to visit as the thing best worth seeing in it. The Rev. Samuel Martin has been the minister for forty-two years. His incumbency is a freehold, and hence he is immovable. His doctrine and that of a most attached and devoted congregation is the direct antipodes of that taught at Zion chapel and elsewhere dominant in the town. They offer divine worship to God the Father alone; they are indeed called Unitarians, but they hold a more exalted idea of our Lord than is commonly held by Unitarians. They are no believers in a vicarious atonement, nor in eternal punishment. They embrace the doctrine of universal restoration. But unquestionably their works are good. The congregation consists wholly of the working classes, yet the beautiful Gothic chapel in which they worship, and which was erected a few years ago, cost £2,000, though it is true that only £300 was raised in Trowbridge. The members of the flock gave their labour for nothing; Mr. Martin himself laboured with his own hands in building it—with one and all it was a labour of love. They still keep it in repair, and the pretty surrounding grave-yard in order, without charge. On entering the chapel one is struck with the general beauty of the design—with the noble pillars on each side with a space around each showing a clear base, and with the richly painted east window, the upper part of which is in the form of a wheel. One is surprised at such artistic beauty and attention to æsthetic effect in so humble a community of worshippers. At Easter the chapel is decorated with flowers and the arches covered with evergreens. It is remarkable that the Conigree chapel is a favourite place for marriages. Mr. Martin has married more couples than any other minister in the town. He and his flock are held in singular respect. Quaker, Jew, and Catholic all contributed to the building. There is a prayer-meeting an hour long, held every Sunday at 7 a.m., and at the same early hour in winter, in a room adjoining the chapel. Their Sunday-school numbers 200 scholars. We have again an instance of what the zeal of a pastor may effect, and we must admit its results, much as we deprecate the doctrine they are intended to promote. Of the practical effects of that doctrine we received a very startling statement from a highly respectable medical man of long standing in Trowbridge. He holds offices which prove that he enjoys the public confidence. He assured us that the Calvinistic doctrine so rife in Trow-

bridge, alike in church and chapel, is often attended with the most deplorable results, even to the production of lunacy. He put it in this striking shape—“The predestinarian doctrine taught here costs the town £400 a year in lunacy!” Such at least is the judgment of a very intelligent medical man, and one who has practised in Trowbridge for more than twenty years. It is a statement well worth pondering.

As to the moral condition of the town, with all these immense religious appliances, the same gentleman told us that it is not worse than the average of towns, but there seems no evidence of superiority. There is a great deal of drunkenness, and the band of pledged total abstinents is falling off. There are now not more than 300, and the teetotal pledge is constantly and shamelessly broken. The rector and clergy do not favour the teetotal cause, nor do they attend temperance meetings. Only two ministers in the town, Mr. Moss, the Independent, and Mr. Martin, of the Conigree, are total abstinents. The clergy discourage amusements, and do not even patronize the penny readings. They were commenced three years ago, and carried on languidly for two winters, but are now dropped. One of the curates read on one occasion, but received an intimation from head-quarters, which caused him to withdraw. The penny readings have now ceased; the tippling in public-houses continues. Nor is singing patronized by the clergy, apart from divine service. There are no choral societies in the town.

There are about 1,500 factory hands employed at the mills; of these, more than two-thirds are females. Girls earn 10s., 12s., and 14s. a week; men, from 20s. to 25s. All are able to read and write. There is happily no stagnation of trade at any time. The broad cloths and fancy woollens of the West are always in full demand. The state of female chastity may be pronounced to be moderately good. What are called the “steady hands” are nearly always moral and respectable; but the occasional workers or hangers-on, who go from one factory to another, and are regularly engaged at none, are often very vicious. The *physique* of the factory population, we were informed by a poor-law doctor, is marvellously improved—thanks to the Factory Act and to better drainage. The poor’s-rate, though in a town containing a prosperous manufacture, is nevertheless 5s. 6d. in the pound. The labourers of the adjacent parishes are driven into the town, their cottages being first pulled down. It is high time, indeed, that a Union Chargeability Bill was passed.

Sunday is a busy day for the religious education of the young in Trowbridge. There are about 2,300 scholars in the various Sunday-schools, and no less than 1,800 of these are taught in the schools belonging to Dissenting chapels. The numbers stand thus:—

Back-street Chapel (Baptist) .....	400 scholars.
Tabernacle ditto.....	550    ”
Zion ditto.....	150    ”
Conigree .....	200    ”
Silver-street (Independent) .....	100    ”
Bethesda (Baptist) .....	150    ”
Wesleyan .....	250    ”
	1,800    ”

Whereas, in the church Sunday-schools attached to the five churches, the whole number does not exceed 450.

It would seem, then, that the rising generation of Trowbridge receive a Dissenting training and bias, and, that, in an overwhelming proportion.

We believe we have now given a full, and certainly a fair and unbiassed, account of the religious condition and statistics of Trowbridge. That condition embraces many interesting, and some very peculiar and distinctive features.

## FINE ARTS.

### THE WATER-COLOUR EXHIBITIONS.

WE have now three exhibitions of water-colour paintings, and another is talked of as about to be added towards the close of the season. The first in the field this year, which was a new venture, under the title of the General Exhibition, we have already noticed as one offering several points of interest in this branch of art. Now we have the old Society and the Institute opening their galleries with the regular exhibition on the same day—Monday last. The old Society, with their spacious gallery, seem to us to appear somewhat to a disadvantage from the necessity of covering the walls. This cannot be done with one high spread of works of the first order, for they are far too rare; the consequence is that certain members who possess the gift of rapid execution and endless resource in varying their subjects, are permitted to do for the exhibition a good deal of what the magazine editors throw in under



the denomination of "padding." The inevitable result of this is, that the productions of these industrious artists dilute the essential goodness of the exhibition and tantalize the visitor, at least the critical visitor, with the constant repetition of very milk-and-watery drawings. There is something that becomes positively provoking in thus meeting at every turn some of these insipid prettinesses, which would be tolerable enough in moderate number, but when they are contributed by the score the eye revolts, and refuses to be feasted on this luscious but common fare. It will be found that out of the 320 drawings, nearly one-third (100) are contributed by seven artists. The members of the old Society surely cannot be blind to this, neither ought they to overlook the fact that in the general exhibition there is no swamping of the good things by mediocrity; while there are drawings that stand for ability that would certainly be acceptable in either of the societies. A judicious selection of new blood, and a wise restraint over the prolific energy of some contributors, would, to our taste, very much improve the exhibition of the old Society.

There are few subjects better adapted to the method of the water-colour painter than those which are, so to speak, natives of the sea. Where a painter in oil would be baffled by his heavy insensate material, the water-colour artist is helped by the tendency of his thin washes to settle into tints and films of colour more airy and delicate than his eye had selected on the palette. Hence much of the advantage of this method in giving the vast breadth and unity of effect which are so distinctive of the natural landscape. In the storm pictures of Mr. Duncan we perceive how well this power is handled to show the air full of driving mist, and the clouds and waves impelled to one grand sweeping attack by mighty Æolus. Mr. Duncan's largest drawing of a storm (24), which partakes perhaps somewhat of the turgid style of the Laureate Southey, whose verse suggested the picture, is not so good as his less ambitious work, "A Gale off the Mumbles" (5), where we feel more completely the grasp of the painter, or rather we do not see the effort to overcome difficulties—in the smaller drawings the artist is master, but in the large storm picture he is overmastered by his subject. Mr. Davidson, who for many years has mistrusted his hand, or perhaps felt over-modest of his art, in attempting the simplest of pastoral pictures, though in the sweetest feeling for the tender beauties of early spring and summer, or the sober richness of autumn, seems to have caught new inspiration of a loftier mood among the mountain solitudes of Wales. His large drawings of the Dollynellan Valley tell of the true poetry of the mountains in the saddening glow of evening, the life and hope renewed in the fleeting gleams and freshness of the passing showers in such a drawing as (149), "A Showery Day." (101) "Evening-Haymaking" is a lovely little idyll. For fine appreciation of the sentiment of landscape there is a small drawing by Mr. S. P. Jackson, which merits the highest praise. The artist has quoted a verse from Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," and it is most interesting to see in this beautiful picture a true poem of the painter's art. The gloom of the purple shadows of late evening spread over the churchyard, and the grey stones that mark

"Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,"

the breadth of cold blue vapours rising from the earth, all tell a mournful tale; but a bright clear opening in the clouds, with the young moon, is exquisitely suggestive of immortal aspirations. Mr. Dodgson's art partakes more of the material beauties of richly-wooded scenery, with idle groups of rustic figures under the shade of the widespreading beech-tree on the green banks of the wood spring. There is beauty of the artistic kind in all the touches in (194) "The Thames at Hambledon, in (34) "Richmond's Broad Vale in Yorkshire," and (78) "Crossing the Brook"—the last showing, perhaps, more than any the slight deficiency of force which is felt in all this artist's work.

But, speaking of beauty of the artistic kind, nothing can surpass in his particular song of colour Mr. Birket Foster's pretty melodies of painting and his captivating rustic children. There is, too, with all the artificiality that he never quite suppresses in his Mosaic-like method of painting, a certain breadth of effect in the skies and sea which speaks better for his talent as an observer of nature. We notice this much in "On the Beach at Hastings," while the want of the rich tone and genuine harmony which constitute fine pictorial colouring is most evident in the drawing (33) "Primroses." It is not surprising to see that the artists who have, as it were, learnt their practice by drawing with the point—Mr. Birket Foster and Mr. John Gilbert—should be equally insensible to the beauties of depth of tone in painting. It is not for us to preach about the method an artist should choose. We can only speak of the pictures of these painters as compared with pictures that have this charm, and often none other, of depth and richness of tone. To Mr. Gilbert, however, must be awarded; in all fairness, the undeniable charm of picturesque arrangement of figures to tell the story—it may be in as obviously artificial a manner as Mr. Nash's version of the scene with Prince Hal and Falstaff's party at the Boar's Head in Eastcheap (59); but he does it with a force and dash of hand that fascinate for the moment. Mr. Gilbert contributes a large drawing of "Cromwell in Battle" (152), "Laura introducing Gil Blas to the service of Arsenia" (267), and a single figure of a Violinist (109), which, in our opinion, has more good points than his attempts at the historical genre.

Mr. Burton is one of the foremost painters of the Society, whose brilliant successes in colouring of the higher order we go on admiring every year, not without a certain discontent that so

accomplished a master of his materials, and one evidently not wanting in the graces of intellect and sentiment—as we remember by his beautiful subject of the "Knight and Lady" exhibited last year—should be expending his gifts upon single heads, such as "La Marchesa" (27) and "Clematis" (247). Both, however, are beautiful, and the Marchesa is a figure that, in grandeur and the finest feeling for expression, would be worthy of some noble historical work.

Perhaps if Diogenes had not gone about "in the nude" and taken up his abode in a tub or an oil jar, as archaeologists may decide, he would never have been heard of in our time. Mr. Burne Jones seems to seek a road to notice by outraging the artistic proprieties of the day, and more *Diogenesico* he becomes the pet of the Alexanders of the Water-Colour Society. His productions are translated to the "line," and pronounced something wonderful in colour—by the old fogies at least. We look at his "Astrologia," a skinny, bedrabbled woman, with a wig of cocoa-nut matting, grasping a ball supposed to be like crystal; or we turn with increased amazement to his illustration of Chaucer's Cupid and Delight in the "Assembly of Fowls," where a Cupid—something between a Byzantine angel and a street Arab—is filing huge iron barbs, while his daughter, a creature of the same stock, dips them in a stone cistern to temper them;—we look at these absurd fantasies, and several others equally ridiculous, and can only speculate whether the Water-Colour Society is weary of the conventionalities of their craft or hard up for a few ugly pictures to act as a foil to their beauties, which might otherwise pass in the crowd unheeded. We must say that, in hanging these pictures in the best places, the greatest injustice is done to several artists of great merit, whose works have thus to be hung in a position where they cannot be fairly seen.

Mr. Carl Haag, generally an important contributor of figure subjects, exhibits only a large drawing made for the Queen, of the Royal party in the Highlands finding Poll Tarriff in Glen Tilt, on their way from Blair Athole to Balmoral, which is very cleverly executed, and a somewhat insignificant drawing of Baalbec. Mr. Topham has only one large drawing, of an Irish fair in Connemara, a picture full of his good figures, most of which we have seen in some guise before, but never in more picturesque and richly-coloured groups. It is, however, a work that scarcely repays for the great labour bestowed upon it, and has but small interest beyond its picturesqueness. Mr. F. Tayler's "Coupling Hounds" is his best drawing this year, the others showing a little too much sketchiness.

Mr. Walter Goodall has one delightful drawing of peasant life—"Labour and Love" (38); a young mother reaping with her family, and the baby lying, kicking and cooing, under the old umbrella.

Other pictures might be named, but, though excellent as specimens of the art, they do not offer any very striking points for remark; and on the whole the exhibition must be set down as one not remarkable for any work of very striking merit, although, as we have endeavoured to show, there are many very interesting pictures, especially in landscape.

## MUSIC.

THE following interesting selection (chiefly so as regards the instrumental pieces) was performed at the second concert of the New Philharmonic Society on Wednesday last:—

### PART I.

Overture (Faust) .....	Spohr.
Recit. and Aria (Ezio), Mdlle. Bettelheim .....	Gluck.
Concerto, Clarinet, Mr. Lazarus .....	Mozart.
Recit. and Aria (Lucia), M. Joulain .....	Donizetti.
Symphony in C .....	Schubert.

### PART II.

Concerto in G minor, Pianoforte, Madame Schumann .....	Mendelssohn.
Cavatina (Maria di Rohan), Mdlle. Bettelheim .....	Donizetti.
Aria (Il Trovatore), M. Joulain .....	Verdi.
Overture (Men of Prometheus) .....	Beethoven.

Conductor, Dr. Wylde.

Two of the pieces in this programme, the symphony and the pianoforte concerto, although not new, were yet of special interest. Schubert's very long and, it must be admitted, diffuse symphony has now been heard some three or four times in this country within the last few years; and its repetition is always enjoyed by those who can appreciate poetical grace and dreamy imagination, although coupled as they are with much reiteration and some vagueness of construction. The work in fact must not be compared with classical examples in which symmetry of form and proportion is observed, as in the symphonies of Haydn and Mozart, but is rather to be taken as a prolonged rhapsodical reverie—a dreamy discourse full of beauty and ideality, but occasionally a little garrulous, a privilege that may well be accorded to one who can speak with such a charm as Schubert. It was an unwise proceeding to mutilate this fine work by the excisions which were made in its performance on Wednesday—and Herr Molique, by whom these "cuts" were inflicted, should have had more reverence for a composer who, although not of the first order, is sufficiently great to be exempt from the pruning process—especially as, in this instance, the time saved by the operation did not amount to more than five or six minutes, if so much. The symphony was very finely performed by the splendid orchestra over which Dr. Wylde presides, and each



repetition serves to illustrate the extraordinary past policy of the elder Philharmonic Society; to whom the work was, many years since, strongly but unsuccessfully recommended for performance by Mendelssohn. The reappearance this season of Madame Schumann, after an interval of several years, is an event of great interest to all who can rightly estimate playing of the highest intellectual order. Since Mendelssohn, there has been no pianist at all comparable to Madame Schumann in the interpretation of classical music; and certainly that composer's concerto has never been so splendidly played, excepting by himself, as by Madame Schumann, and especially on the present occasion. With brilliant execution and unflagging energy, she combines the utmost refinement of touch and delicate gradation of tone; but, admirable as are these executive qualities, far more so is the powerful conception with which this great artist seizes on the style and meaning of the composer, and the spontaneous fervour and glowing colour which she imparts to the music that she interprets. Admirable, too, is her perception of rhythm, and the finished phrasing by which an effect is gained similar to the significance imparted to poetry by the highest order of elocution. It is to be hoped that there is now sufficient intelligence among our musical public to insure for this great artist more general recognition than has been accorded her in past seasons. Mozart's exquisitely melodious concerto was admirably played by Mr. Lazarus, and exercised the same charm as on former occasions at these concerts. The most successful vocal display was Mdlle. Bettelheim's forcible delivery of Gluck's fine declamatory air—a composition full of dramatic passion, although a little tinctured with the sequential style of the elder Italian school, by which Gluck was much influenced, until he found his own independent expression in the few later operas on which his fame chiefly rests. M. Joulain has a voice of good quality and much capability, but his style is exaggerated, and his only gradations of tone are between *forte* and *fortissimo*.

After being unheard for several seasons, Beethoven's choral symphony seems likely to receive an unusual number of hearings this year. Its performance at the first New Philharmonic concert, at the beginning of the month, has been followed by its production at the Crystal Palace last Saturday, and its promised repetition to-day. This is as it should be—so great a work, presenting as it does the highest standard of known excellence, should be heard more than once each season, especially when so admirably given as on the occasions referred to.

#### THE LONDON THEATRES.

MR. LOCKE has postponed the second reading of his Theatres Bill, at the request of the Government, until Wednesday, May 10th, the bill having been printed on the eve of the Parliamentary holidays. The greatest enemies of the measure—the theatrical monopolists and their friends—admit that it is "practical," and are only annoyed that the promoters have not broken their backs by introducing a more extreme bill. The following statement in support of it appears to us to be unanswerable:—

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.	Rent.
1841. Maddox, Lessee.....	£1,200 a year.
1848. " " .....	1,800 "
1851. C. Kean " .....	3,000 "
1862. Webster " .....	3,800 "
1863. Vining " .....	4,000 "

#### Analysis of above Rent:

Ground Rent .....	£300 a year.
Rent of Building .....	900 "
	£1,200
Annual value of ground landlord's monopoly	£2,800 "
Total .....	£4,000

LYCEUM THEATRE.	
1844. Keeley, Lessee .....	£2,000 a year.
1846. " " .....	2,500 "
1863. Fechter " .....	4,000 "

#### DRURY LANE THEATRE.

1860. E. T. Smith, Lessee .....	£4,500 a year.
1862. Mr. Smith sells his lease for £6,000 premium to Messrs. Falconer and Chatterton, being a premium of £3,000 a year on the two years of his lease.	

No new Theatre has been built in London for 25 years.

All the London Theatres will only accommodate, nightly, 40,000 persons.

The daily visitors to London number 100,000 persons.

The London population is 3,000,000.

The buildings having proprietors who wish to play the drama but are not allowed to do so will accommodate, nightly, 180,000 persons.

Every facility is given by the present law to supply low and degrading amusements for the people; and it is only the drama—a higher form of entertainment—the supply of which is restricted.

The law giving a practical dramatic monopoly to 23 London managers is always set in motion by these gentlemen—not by the Lord Chamberlain—who thus dictate to 3,000,000 of people how they shall be amused.

#### SCIENCE.

SOME time ago Baron Liebig contributed a very valuable article upon the subject of "milk for children" to the *Popular Science Review*. His paper appears to have excited the prejudices of those who desire to follow the beaten track. Some of those who profess to have experience in such matters condemned the semi-artificial compound suggested by Liebig, and among them we find one who writes to the *Social Science Review* controverting the German chemist's views. The writer, whose initials "M. A. B." alone are given, seems to us to raise very silly objections to the "new food," and furthermore, makes some very startling scientific statements. In the first place it is alleged that "the salivary glands are but imperfectly developed in infancy," and this is *apparently* suggested as a reason why the infant's digestive faculties are not very powerful. We were not before aware that the salivary organs exhibited the imperfectly formed condition at the period asserted by the writer, but even did we admit that the statement was correct, we should not therefore conclude even as a matter of probability that the conversion of starch into sugar took place during the passage of the infant's food from the mouth to the stomach. The writer objects to the addition of carbonate of potash to mothers' milk, and makes the very erroneous assertion that "although the carbonate of potash in a crystallized form may be very valuable as a medicinal agent, if required, there can be no question that for dietetic purposes it is much better derived from the vegetable kingdom." Really this method of reasoning is unpardonable. Upon what scientific grounds can it be alleged that carbonate of potash produces its effects more perfectly in an impure than a pure condition. As to the derivation of the salt from the *mineral* kingdom, comment is unnecessary.

In a paper read before the Ethnological Society, at one of its late meetings, Dr. John Rae gave a very interesting account of the Esquimaux inhabiting the coast of Hudson's Bay. They are sober, steady, faithful, and, generally speaking, honest, never begging, as is the practice among the Red Indians, prudent of their own property, and careful of that of others when under their charge. With few exceptions they are short in stature, but not dwarfish, being well-built and powerful, long-bodied, and exhibit great strength in lifting weights. Their expression of face is pleasing; their foreheads low and broadish; cheek-bones high, features rather flat, and the inner angle of the eye pointing rather downwards in the manner commonly noticed in the Chinese. Their hair is short, black, and coarse, cut short in the men, who have generally not much beard. Their numbers, they say, are rapidly decreasing, owing to the spread of a peculiar disease, which from their description would seem to be a species of influenza.

In the last number of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Science*, a periodical which reflects considerable credit upon the labours of Irish scientific men, is a short though interesting paper, by Dr. M'Alister, upon the abnormal structure of the common snowberry. The writer, who carefully studied the development of the plant in question, regards the aberrant form, which came especially under his notice, as a decided illustration of the law enunciated by the author of "Faust." When the specimen was first shown him he was struck with its appearance; it exhibited a raceme of berries in different states of development, the two lower being crowned by a circlet of leaves. This plant belongs to the honeysuckle order, and has its sepals united to form a confluent calyx, the remains of which are persistent on the summit of the berry. In Dr. M'Alister's specimen, however, their place was taken by well developed lanceolate foliar organs. When first gathered, each berry was crowned by five leaves. These leaves were closely connected at the base, and their midribs seemed to be continuous with the woody bundles on the outer coating of the berries. "They appear to me," says the writer, "to be a modified calycine whorl, from their position, and from a striking illustration of the law of morphology as established by Goethe—that all the parts of the flower are modified leaves." Our great botanist, Robert Brown, long ago pointed out a curious fact in relation to the ovary of this plant—that in the immature condition it consists of four cells, two of which are many-seeded and two single-seeded; but in the mature berry there are only two loculi, which correspond to the one-seeded cells, as the many-seeded cells become undeveloped and abortive.

We think chemists should exert themselves to effect a revolution in the present scheme of terminology. If the terms employed to designate organic compounds were merely to be regarded as symbols which no one is expected to pronounce, then we should not object. But how, in the name of reason, could any one be supposed in conversation to speak of the following salt which was recently described to the French Academy—*oxethylglycolylallophanate of baryta*?

#### PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE following paper, explanatory of a proposed Society for Exploring the Holy Land for Biblical Illustration, has been handed to us for publication:—

"No country should be of so much interest to us as that in which the documents of our faith were written, and the momentous events they describe enacted. At the same time, no country more urgently requires illustration. The face of the landscape, the climate, the productions, the manners, dress, and modes of life of its inhabitants differ in so many material respects from those of the Western world, that



without an accurate knowledge of them it is not too much to say the outward form and complexion of the events, and much of the significance of the records, must remain more or less obscure. Even to a casual traveller in the Holy Land the Bible becomes, in its form, and therefore to some extent in its substance, a new book. Many an allusion which hitherto had no meaning, or had lain unnoticed, starts into prominence and throws a light over a whole passage. How much more would this be the case if by careful systematic investigation the modes of life and manners of the ancient Israelites were to be revealed at all in the same fulness that those of the Egyptians and Assyrians have been! Even supposing so complete a result unattainable, information of the highest value could not fail to be obtained in the process. Much would be gained by obtaining an accurate map of the country, by settling disputed points of topography, by identifying the ancient towns of Holy Writ with the modern villages which are their successors, by bringing to light the remains of so many races and generations which must lie concealed under the accumulation of rubbish and ruins on which those villages stand, by ascertaining the course of the ancient roads, by the discovery of coins, inscriptions, and other relics—in short, by doing at leisure and systematically that which has hitherto been entirely neglected, or done only in a fragmentary manner by the occasional unassisted efforts of hurried and inexperienced travellers. Who can doubt that if the same intelligence, zeal, knowledge, and outlay were applied to the exploration of Palestine that have recently been brought to bear on Halicarnassus, Carthage, Cyrene—places without a single sacred association, and with little bearing on the Bible—the result would be an enormous accession to our knowledge of the successive inhabitants of Syria—Canaanite, Israelite, Roman—and, in consequence, a flood of light over both Old and New Testaments?

"Hitherto the opportunity for such research has been wanting. It appears now to have arrived. The visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Mosque at Hebron has broken down the bar which for centuries obstructed the entrance of Christians to that most venerable of the sanctuaries of Palestine, and may be said to have thrown open the whole of Syria to Christian research.

"The survey of Jerusalem at present in progress under the direction of Captain Wilson, R.E.—a survey supported by the private liberality of a single person—has shown how much may be done with tact, temper, and opportunity, without arousing the opposition of the authorities or inhabitants. Recent letters of Sir H. James and others in the *Times* have borne testimony to the remarkable fitness of Captain Wilson for such undertakings, and have pointed out other places where explorations might be advantageously carried on.

"It is therefore proposed to raise a fund, to be applied to the purposes of investigating the Holy Land, by employing competent persons to examine the following points:—

"1. The Archaeology.—Jerusalem alone would furnish an ample field in this department. What is above ground will be accurately known when the present survey is completed; but below the surface hardly anything has yet been discovered. The tombs of the Kings on Mount Zion, the course of the Tyropæon Valley, the real extent of the Temple enclosure, the site of the Tower of Antonia, of the Palace of Herod, of Ophel, of the Pool of Bethesda, the position of the Towers of Hippicus and Psephinus, the spring and conduit of Hezekiah, are all awaiting excavation; and it is not too much to anticipate that every foot in depth of the 'sixty feet of rubbish' on which the city stands will yield most interesting and important matter for the archaeologist and the numismatist.

"Beyond the Holy City the country is full of sites which cannot fail amply to repay examination. Of these a few only may be enumerated:—Mount Gerizim, possibly the Moriah of Abraham's sacrifice, certainly the Holy Place of the Samaritans, containing the stones which they allege to have been brought up by Israel from the bed of the Jordan; the Valley of Shechem, the earliest settlement of Jacob in the Holy Land, with his Well, and the tomb of Joseph; Samaria, with the traditional tombs of John the Baptist and others, and with the extensive remains of Herod's edifices; the splendid Roman cities along the coast, Caesarea of Herod and St. Paul; Antipatris; the once-renowned harbours of Jamnia and Gaza; the mounds and other remains of Jijilieh, probably the Gilgal which contained the Great College of Prophets in the days of Elijah and Elisha; the Fortress and Palace of Herod at Jabel Fureidis; the Tombs (probably those of Joshua) at Tibneh; the mounds at Jericho; the numerous remains in the valley of the Jordan; Bethshean, one of the most ancient cities of Palestine, with remarkable remains of Roman, and probably still earlier, date; Jezreel, with the Palace of Ahab and Jezebel; the Assyrian mound, called Tell-es-Salhiyeh, near Damascus, &c.

"2. Manners and Customs.—A work is urgently required which shall do for the Holy Land what Mr. Lane's 'Modern Egyptians' has done for Egypt—describe in a systematic and exhaustive order, with clear and exact minuteness, the manners, habits, rites, and language of the people, with engravings, intended, like his, 'not to embellish the pages, but to explain the text.' Many of the ancient and peculiar customs of the East are fast vanishing before the increasing tide of Western manners, and in a short time the exact meaning of many things which find their correspondences in the Bible will have perished. There are frequent references to these things in the books of travellers, and they have recently formed the subject of more than one entire work; but nothing sufficiently accurate or systematic has been done. It can only be accomplished by the lengthened residence of a thoroughly competent person.

"3. Topography.—Of the coast-line of Palestine we now possess an accurate map in the recent Admiralty charts; but advance a few miles inland, and all is uncertain. What is wanted is a survey which should give the position of the principal points throughout the country with absolute accuracy. If these were fixed, the intermediate spots and the smaller places could be filled in with comparative ease and certainty. In connection with the topography is the accurate ascertainment of the levels of the various points. The elevation of Jerusalem and the depression of the Dead Sea are already provided for by the

liberality of the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society;\* but the level of the Sea of Galilee (on which depends our knowledge of the true fall of the Jordan) is still uncertain within no less than 300 feet, as are other spots of almost equal moment.

"The course of the ancient roads and their coincidence with the modern tracks has never been examined with the attention it deserves, considering its importance in the investigation of the history.

"The principle on which the modern territorial boundaries are drawn, and the towns and villages allotted between one district and another, would probably throw light on the course of the boundaries between the tribes and the distribution of the villages which form the most puzzling point in the otherwise clear specifications of the Book of Joshua.

"4. Geology.—Of this we are in ignorance of almost every detail. The valley of the Jordan and basin of the Dead Sea is geologically one of the most remarkable spots on the earth's surface. To use the words of Sir Roderick Murchison, 'it is the key to the whole of the geology of the district.' Its Biblical interest is equally great. To name but one point. The decision of the question whether any volcanic changes have occurred round the margin of the lake within the historical period may throw a new aspect over the whole narrative of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, which has hitherto been interpreted almost wholly without reference to the geological evidence of the ground.

"5. Natural Sciences.—Botany, Zoology, Meteorology.—These are at present but very imperfectly known, while the recent investigations of Mr. Tristram, limited as they necessarily were, show that researches are likely to furnish results of no common scientific interest. Naturalist after naturalist will devote himself for years to the forests of South America or the rivers of Africa. Why should we not have some of the same energy and ability applied to the correct description of the lilies and cedars, the lions, eagles, foxes, and ravens of the Holy Land?

"It will perhaps be said that many of the points above enumerated have been already examined—that Robinson, Stanley, Rosen, and others have done much in the department of topography; that Hooker, and more recently Tristram, have reported on the botany; that Roth and Tristram have brought home shells, birds, and eggs; that the researches of M. Lartet on the geology of the Dead Sea, and those of De Vogué and De Saulcy on archaeology, are on the eve of publication. This is true; but, without intending to detract from the usefulness or the credit of the labours of these eminent men, it is sufficient to observe that their researches have been partial and isolated, and their results in too many cases discrepant with each other. What is now proposed is an expedition composed of thoroughly competent persons in each branch of research, with perfect command of funds and time, and with all possible appliances and facilities, who should produce a report on Palestine which might be accepted by all parties as a trustworthy and thoroughly satisfactory document.

"It is hoped that an arrangement may be made by which Captain Wilson will be able to remain for a few months in the country after he has completed the survey of Jerusalem and the levelling between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, and it will not be difficult to find competent persons to undertake the other departments named above. The annual cost of each investigator may be taken roughly at £800 (including both remuneration and expenses).

"The fund will be under the general control of a committee, aided by a small executive council chosen by the committee from its own body.

"On the council will devolve the charge of administering the affairs of the fund, reporting periodically to the committee.

"The practicability of such an undertaking as that now proposed has been amply proved by the success of the 'Assyrian Excavation Fund,' formed in 1853, for prosecuting researches in the Mounds of Assyria, for which a large sum was raised by private subscription, and by which, during the short time it existed, much was effected. His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, with characteristic liberality, showed his approbation of the project by becoming its patron and subscribing to the fund.

"The following noblemen and gentlemen have already consented to join the committee:—Archbishop of York, Duke of Argyll, Duke of Devonshire, Bishop of London, Bishop of Oxford, Bishop of Ely, Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir S. Morton Peto, M.P., Dean of Westminster, Dean of Christ Church, Rev. George Williams, Rev. Samuel Martin, Westminster, Mr. James Fergusson, Mr. Henry Reeve, Professor Owen, Sir Henry Rawlinson, K.C.B., Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P., Mr. William Tite, M.P., Mr. John Abel Smith, M.P., Rev. A. W. Thorold, Dr. William Smith, Rev. Norman M'Leod, Mr. Antonio Panizzi, and Canon Ernest Hawkins. Hon. Secretary, Mr. George Grove.

## MONEY AND COMMERCE.

### "SHUT YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR MOUTH."

MANKIND are so given to curiosity that a secret of any kind is a difficult thing to keep, but the secret of growing instantly rich without ostensible means is not one which they will see withheld from them, without consoling themselves with the belief that the wealth is a delusion and the secret a sham. They are all the more prone to come to this conclusion when they consider how much toil, how much skill and inventiveness and prudence, with long years to fructify them, are expended in building up even a moderate fortune, and how many competitors for that golden prize have started with good promise and able sinews, and have kept up the race indefatigably and with honour, yet have failed to reach the goal. When they see a fellow who was nobody yesterday clothed in fine raiment, with lacqueys at his command, and sur-

\* See Sir Henry James's letter to the *Times*, January 28, 1865.



rounded by all the accessories of wealth, they are apt to ask whence came the ways and means out of which all this sudden splendour has been created? Have the tailor and upholsterer been paid? Will these lacqueys receive their wages, and the landlord his rent? Or is the whole thing an imposture? It certainly looks suspicious, and it will not look any the better if, when the *nouveau riche* is asked to explain how he has come by his splendour, he answers, "That is a secret." As it is with individuals so is it with public companies. Shareholders like to know, and they have a right to know, how their dividends are obtained, especially when they reach a fabulous amount. It is not enough to tell them that the directors have discovered a secret which they will keep to themselves lest other companies should grow as rich as they. The suspicion will remain, in spite of their assurance, that there is something behind the curtain which will not bear inspection. Nor would men of business be true to their own judgment and interests if they regarded the matter in any other light.

Such is the view which that portion of the public, which is not dazzled by the announcement of enormous profits, must take of the first annual report of the *Crédit Foncier and Mobilier of England* (Limited). The directors of this Company ask the public to believe on the faith of their report that during the first six months of its existence there has been realized a profit of £200,000, clear of all expenses, and that the accumulated profits actually amount to nearly £400,000, or a sum equal to the total paid up capital. The facts being broadly and clearly stated, we cannot presume to deny the accuracy of the statement. But we may still ask how it has been brought about. This question, however, is no sooner put than the chairman, the Right Hon. J. S. Wortley, and Mr. Grant, the managing director, step forward and assure us that it would be impossible for the Company to gain these great profits if the directors were to be required to show their cards to the whole world. "If they let everybody know exactly how they dealt, they would soon be able to realize no profits at all." Accordingly inquisitive shareholders, the co-partners of the directors, were flatly told they should have no information of the kind asked for. But this is not the way to stop inquiry. People are very apt to put facts together and draw their own conclusions, which are as often as not more prejudicial than the actual facts might be. The question which naturally suggests itself under the circumstances is, what is the nature of the business which this mysterious Company transacts, and when we have ascertained that point, we may the more probably be enabled to throw some light on the manner in which it is transacted.

The business of the *Crédit Mobilier and Crédit Foncier of England* has been confined, so far as we are aware, to introducing to the public four undertakings, called respectively, the Millwall Freehold Land and Docks Company—the Milan Improvements Company—the China, Japan, and Labuan Coal and Steam Company—and the Varna railway. This last had previously been offered to the public by a less pretentious finance company, but had not been taken up. It fell into the hands of the *Crédit Foncier*, and at once became the most popular investment of the day. It is clear from the chairman's speech that the chief profits have been derived from such sources as these, for he says:—

"They would perceive by the report that they had made great profits, which he hoped would not in their minds excite alarm or prejudice. (Hear, hear.) Those profits, however, must to some extent be considered exceptional, being derived in great part from what might be deemed by some an ephemeral source. They did not disguise that a large portion of their profits was derived from commissions on operations of rather an exceptional character—he meant bringing out companies for the purpose of effecting great operations. That was, no doubt, a class of profits which formed the bulk of the money earned in the course of the half-year, and some persons thought that that source of profit could not continue. He could not say that he had come to that conclusion himself, being inclined to think that the principle of joint-stock operation had not yet extended itself to anything like its full extent, notwithstanding the present apathy which prevailed, and that there would be many wholesome, legitimate, and useful undertakings brought out by their nurture. There was one thing, namely, that they nursed none but strong babies, whom they hoped would grow up into able-bodied men."

In what the strength of these "babies" consisted, or why infants produced by such means as attended their birth should be anything but a burden to all concerned, the Chairman does not say. Now, the profits for the half year greatly exceed £200,000, for the net profits come to nearly that sum, and the expenses, we know, are enormous; so that we are driven to conclude that a sum not less than £50,000 was by some means obtained by introducing each of the companies above named to the notice of the British public. Are English capitalists so blind to their own interests, and so unable to distinguish the chaff from the wheat, that it is really necessary to set up such a machinery as this Company affords, in order to gain for sound undertakings a fair hearing and the subscription of the requisite capital? We confess we regard the position and pursuits of the *Crédit Foncier and Mobilier* with great anxiety, and anticipate mischief of an extensive character from a continuance of its operations on its present principles. We are well aware that many of the directors are men of high character and undoubted respectability; but we know also that it is often the case that the transaction of the business of a company lies in the hands of one, or two, or three individuals, who have that intimate knowledge of all that is going on which the

general body of the directors have not the leisure, and perhaps not even the inclination, to obtain. We should be glad to hear that this is not the case in the *Crédit Foncier and Mobilier*. We cannot help being struck by the fact that the present market value of the shares of the four companies we have named—the "babies" of the *Crédit Foncier and Mobilier*—does not indicate vitality of that robust character which the Report and Dividends of the *Crédit Foncier and Mobilier* would have us give them credit for. We find, for instance, that while the shares of the Milan Improvements Company, on which only £5 have been paid, are at a premium of £6, those shares on which the full sum of £30 has been paid are at a discount of £2. The shares of the Millwall Freehold Land and Docks Company are at a discount of £1. 10s., and those of the China, Japan, and Labuan Coal and Steam Company, at a discount of £2. The shares of the Varna Railway not fully paid up we find at a premium of £6. 10s. Yet it is, with regard to the transactions of this Company, that the Committee for General Purposes of the Stock Exchange has this week passed the following resolutions:—

"Resolved—That Wednesday, May 3, be fixed for the settlement of transactions in the Varna Railway Company.

"Resolved—That the arrangements for the issue and the allotment of shares in the company being irregular and unsatisfactory, a quotation be refused."

These are facts which require explanation, and which look none the better for the plea on which explanation is withheld. The apparently fabulous profits of the *Crédit Foncier and Mobilier* may stand the test of time, and the secret by which they are alleged to have been made may in truth be not only a secret worth knowing, but one which the directors, in the interests of the shareholders, do well in keeping to themselves. But, to say the least, it is working in the dark. The shareholders enter the tunnel encouraged by the jubilant cheering of the directors; but how will they come out at the other end?

THE quotation of gold at Paris is about 1 per mille premium, and the short exchange on London is 25.17½ per £1 sterling. On comparing these rates with the English Mint price of £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce for standard gold, it appears that gold is about 1-10th per cent. dearer in Paris than in London.

IN the market for foreign securities the chief movements have been in American descriptions, but in nearly all other cases there has likewise been a heavy fall. On receipt of the telegram from New York transactions in American stocks were for some little time wholly suspended, and on the resumption of business an average decline was established of about 6 per cent.

BANKERS and brokers have a fair supply of capital at their command, but they are not yet willing to lend it upon very easy terms. The quotations for the best short-dated bills were 3¼ per cent.

THE LONDON AND MEDITERRANEAN BANK (LIMITED).—The prospectus has been issued of the above Company, with a capital of £2,000,000, in 100,000 shares of £20 each, of which 80,000 shares have been already subscribed. The Company is formed for the purpose of converting the £100 shares of the Continental Bank Corporation into shares of £20, and to carry out the amalgamation of that bank with the bank of Messrs. E. Landau & Co., of Alexandria, and for facilitating commercial, financial, and monetary transactions between this country, the Continent, and Egypt.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT COMPANY (LIMITED), invite applications for shares in the Plymouth Shipbuilding, Dock, and Ironworks Company (Limited). The capital is £250,000, in 10,000 shares of £25 each. The Company propose to purchase the freehold property known as Queen Anne's Ship-yard, with the shipbuilding business there, and to carry on shipbuilding in iron, wood, and mechanical engineering in all its branches. As there are at present no iron shipbuilding works at Plymouth, the Directors look forward to a large business of a highly remunerative character. This Company has just published its first report and balance-sheet. With the net profits of £88,278. 3s. 6d. the directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of £10 per cent., to place £60,000 to a reserve fund, and to allocate £5,000 in discharge in full for the preliminary expenses, carrying the balance forward to the next account.

THE COLONIAL AND GENERAL LAND CREDIT COMPANY (LIMITED) have issued their prospectus. The Capital is £1,000,000 in 40,000 shares of £25, with a first issue of 20,000. This Company has been formed for the purpose of establishing in the British Colonies and elsewhere the business of a Land and Credit Company. It has already entered into preliminary arrangements for the acquisition of numerous estates in various parts of the Colony of Natal, and in the Orange Free State, where business will be immediately commenced; but the Company contemplates an extension of their operations into other colonies, as favourable opportunities present themselves.

Two legal decisions of the greatest importance to shareholders and others interested in limited liability companies have just been affirmed on appeal to the Lord Justices and the Lord Chancellor respectively. We refer to the case of *Mr. Ship in re the Scottish and Universal Finance Bank*, and *Hutton v. the Scarborough Cliff Hotel Company*. In both these cases the question in dispute turns upon the memorandum which precedes the articles of association. In the one case the directors had, without the sanction of the shareholders, materially extended or varied the original purposes for which the Company had started, and in the other they had, with the consent of a majority of the shareholders, passed a resolution, "the effect of which would be," said the Lord Chancellor, "to alter the basis upon which the company was formed." In both cases it has been established that shareholders are not liable either to the Company or to the creditors of the Company if the directors either alter or extend the operations originally announced in the memorandum of association.



## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTENDOM.\*

MANY of our readers will recollect a somewhat remarkable letter which appeared in the *Guardian* newspaper and other periodicals a short time ago, recording the "Confessions of a 'vert,'" and setting forth with considerable liveliness and force certain deficiencies in the communion to which several English perverts had transferred their allegiance. The "'vert" in question (whose individuality was pretty well known) complained, among other things, of the lack of general literature, of the scanty supply of well-written essays, articles, reviews, and discussions on modern subjects, to be found among the Roman Catholics of our country and time. Active-minded young deserters of the Anglican communion, after the racy intellectual life of Oxford and Cambridge, evidently found their new co-religionists very dull. There were hardly any newspapers in the cause of the Infallible Church, whose columns might be filled with slashing articles on Protestant shortcomings; no popular magazines, in whose pages they might let off some of the superfluous steam pent up in their excitable minds. The "'verts" had abundance of energy, speculative, literary, and practical; only the Romish communion seemed to have no demand and to furnish no vent for it. It would appear that the deficiency so keenly felt by these gentlemen is not likely to last much longer. As on their conversion they could not find in their Church opportunities for exercising their understandings and powers, they are wisely determined to create them; and accordingly, within the last few months, "'vert-literature" has been claiming a very ample and distinguished place in the lists of "new publications." Dr. Newman may be said to have led the way with his "Apologia," for the appearance of which work (never equalled, we believe, in interest, since the "Confessions of Saint Augustine") the literary world owes a positive debt to Mr. Kingsley. Dr. Manning followed in a volume of Essays, written by himself and other well-known converts to the Church of Rome, which was noticed in our columns a few weeks ago; and now two other authors, whose names were well known in the English Church of twenty years ago, have put forth—one a collection of Lectures, the other a sort of historical sketch, both of which satisfactorily establish that the Church of Rome is not quite as much the grave of intellect, candour, and inquiry as the long silence and apparent extinction of many of the abler perverts had led many to imagine. The book-writing fever has, it seems, extended even to them; and from the specimens we have seen, we are disposed to welcome the last victims of the contagion.

The work of Mr. Allies consists of some lectures delivered before the students of the Catholic University of Ireland. It was a wise choice that Dr. Newman, as rector, made when he appointed this gentleman to the post of Lecturer on the "Philosophy of History" in that University. How far thinking men are likely to agree with Mr. Allies in his views of the science of history—whether the best qualifications for penetrating the secret of ages are to be found in "him who sits in St. Peter's chair, seeing age after age pass by him, yet remaining himself immovable and the same"—there is unquestionably great room for doubt. But no one can read these lectures without perceiving that Mr. Allies is an accomplished scholar, a good historian, and no mean philosopher after his kind. His style is peculiarly pleasing, full of life and picturesqueness, and reminding us not unfrequently of some of the best pages of Dr. Milman and Dr. Stanley. His subject is a good one, and it has been often, and well, handled by abler writers than Mr. Allies, from very different points of view. Still, even those who may have drunk deep of Gibbon and Merivale, of Guizot and Milman, may find much to entertain and instruct, though much also to differ with, in the graphic sketches and well-grouped generalizations of these lectures.

It is obvious that the "Formation of Christendom" cannot be understood apart from the system it came to supplant, and never could that system be seen to greater advantage than at the very crisis of the fulness of time when Christ was born into the world. Rome was in every sense the "consummation of the old world," alike in its good and evil. "The parallel growth of a brilliant civilization, and of an intense moral corruption," forms undoubtedly the main result of human history from its beginning up to the time of Augustus Caesar. Humanity apart from Christ culminated in the first days of Imperial Rome, with all the arts and conveniences of life,—with the diffusion of peace and commercial intercourse,—with the preparation of one great system of civil law for the whole empire,—with endeavours, at all events, to reform the external morality and decorum of the citizens, and with vast literary activity, if not intellectual originality. It must be said that Rome at this period affords the clearest manifestation of what men of the highest races, under the best advantages, by the unaided light of their own mind and character, could achieve. What, then, were the great blots on this brilliant picture of Pagan civilization? Mr. Allies is here at one with all historians we know of, in holding slavery, sensuality, cruelty, and a general infidelity and despair of the future and the unseen, to have been the four main elements of corruption and dissolution in the bosom of society in Imperial Rome. Our author, however, does not confine himself merely to sweeping statements about humanity at large. He has a very

admirable chapter illustrating these general truths by a close analysis of two individual lives, whom he takes as the best specimens of heathen and Christian culture respectively—those of Cicero and St. Augustine. We are disposed to agree most cordially with the selection of Cicero, rather than Socrates, or Cato, or Marcus Aurelius, as the type of heathen culture and morality. The time at which Cicero lived,—his high intelligence and kindly disposition,—his many-sidedness as orator, statesman, magistrate, lawyer, philosopher, even poet,—his exalted views of morality, combined with something of a religious mind,—all mark him out as distinctly a representative man, capable of being well contrasted with the great African genius and saint. It is impossible for us in our space to set forth with anything approaching to justice the several points of contrast between those two great writers and high-souled men, which Mr. Allies has developed with great subtlety and success. We must content ourselves with the general purport of the whole discussion, that whereas, before St. Augustine's mind in all the subjects he treated of, two objects were always steadily present—(1), the idea of his own individual, responsible soul; (2), that of the personal being of God, on whom that soul rests and lives,—these were just the two conceptions which appear never to have even entered the consciousness of the Roman statesman.

Working, then, from these two fundamental ideas, Christianity, in the four centuries after Christ, effected the restoration of man in the three leading departments of life—Individual, Domestic, and Political. It established the unity of man's nature, and with it a common morality for the whole race, overriding the distinctions of conquering or subject nations, of freeman or slave. At the same time, by the restoration and purification of marriage, by the introduction of domestic education on the basis of a moral religion, by the condemnation of all unconsecrated unions, and by the indissolubility of Christian marriages, a reformation was produced in the sphere of family life, from which, in the time of Augustus, every vestige of chastity and affection had perished, more conspicuously than even in the other relations of man.

It would have been well, we are inclined to think, had Mr. Allies, in the remainder of his volume, completed the general sketch of his subject by portraying the influence exerted on man's *civil* life by Christianity. But, instead of this, he has given us a somewhat long and tedious lecture on what he is pleased to call "the Creation of the Virginal Life;" the sanction, value, and results of which, apart from all Protestant prejudices, we strongly suspect our author to have much overrated. His very style and manner seem to change when he gets on this topic. Usually clear and direct, he becomes visionary and obscure, and bids us swallow such mystical conceptions as "that the ecstasy of Christ, in his passion, is the truth of which Adam's ecstasy, when Eve was formed, is the shadow." Usually so accurate, he yet perverts the plain words of Scripture to support the audacious theory that the "Virgin Mary had always chosen for herself the virginal life, notwithstanding the universal spirit and practice of the chosen people." Here, however, we must leave Mr. Allies, being disposed neither to trouble ourselves nor our readers with any more of his speculations on the superior sanctities of conventual and monastic life. We hope we have said enough on the other side to attract readers to some of our author's wiser thoughts; and we shall be glad to see the completion of his subject in the remaining volumes which he promises us.

We can only very briefly record our impressions of Mr. Ffoulkes's work. We like the author better than his book; the latter seems to us disconnected, abrupt, fragmentary. A hundred short sections on separate points, crammed into two hundred and sixty small pages, make an uncomfortable book to read; before we have thoroughly settled into one subject, we are hurried off to another, and end in appreciating neither. Mr. Ffoulkes calls his volume a "philosophical sketch;" its sketchiness is unfortunately more prominent than its philosophy. "Christendom's Divisions" would, alas! with any treatment, form a large subject; and where there is a deficiency of method, a want of one definite plan pervading the whole sketch, besides a tendency to ramble and moralize, our readers may easily imagine, without glancing at Mr. Ffoulkes's pages, how unsatisfactory must be a sketch that attempts, within such a compass, to comprise most things divine, and some things human, from the schism of Israel and Judah to the plans for reunion suggested by Grotius, Bossuet, and Leibnitz. Still, one cannot help liking the tone and spirit of the author. To find a pervert "pleading for Christianity, not for Rome," "complaining that Christians spend all their time and learning on questions of acknowledged intricacy (e.g., the infallibility of the Church, the supremacy of the Pope, apostolical succession, &c.), while neglecting the plain and all-important commandments, 'to love one another, &c.,"' is too rare a discovery not to be appreciated when it appears. Again, Mr. Ffoulkes does not join Dr. Manning in railing against the Church he was bred in; he shows his charity no less than his sense in discerning that in its cultivation of Biblical and other scholarship, in its appreciation of the scientific spirit, and in its conduct of theological controversy, the Church of England has had a distinct work to perform, and has performed it not without great benefit even to Christendom at large. Once more, our author shows a Catholicity in its best sense when he recognises that, after all, "Christendom's Divisions" may benefit the cause of truth. He will not, we fear, find all the members of his own Church ready to agree with him in the wise reflection "that in our fallen state our testimony is apt to be much more unexceptionable when we are divided amongst ourselves than when we are united." When we find such generous sentiments scattered up and down Mr. Ffoulkes's pages, we are disposed to forgive him, not

\* The Formation of Christendom. Part First. By T. W. Allies. London: Longman & Co.

Christendom's Divisions. By Edmund S. Ffoulkes. London: Longman & Co.



only his defects of treatment and style, but even such eccentricities as comparing Luther with Mahomet, or assuring us that "for those who believe thoroughly in the Divine gift bestowed in baptism, there can be no difficulty in believing in the immaculate conception of the mother of God."

We hope and believe that our author may be more successful in the volume which is to follow this sketch—a volume which is to treat of the different *Re-unions* projected in East and West up to our day, as the present work is taken up with their several *Divisions*—Latin and Greek, Latin and Teutonic, and some of the various oppositions in the latter between the several sects of Protestantism. We consider it no mean compliment to Mr. Ffoulkes when we rank him, in tone and aspiration—though we cannot rank him in ability—with men like Döllinger and Moehler, the famous words of the latter of whom our author quotes in fond admiration:—"Let Protestants acknowledge their present errors, and Catholics their past corruptions, and let them both take to heart the causes which have divided them, and labour to be more fair to each other. Let the East accept the *anthropological* teaching of the West, as the West has accepted the *theological* teaching of the East, without any reserve, and all may be healed; and Christendom and the Church may become synonymous terms once more, to the joy of all hearts, and to the conversion of all unbelievers in all lands."

#### RAILWAY REFORM.\*

PROBABLY there never was an instance where a simple legislative enactment conferred such unmixed benefit, or received such universal approval, as the penny postage. Family intercourse—communion of thought—business communications—were shackled by fetters which did not the less impede the free breathing and movements of the national life, and detract from the convenience, the comfort, and the pleasures of society, from the fact of their being self-imposed, or worn unconsciously and in ignorance. Once shaken off, and the blessing of their absence made a matter of experience, their re-imposition would have been simply intolerable. The object of Mr. Galt's book is to couch the national blindness, and open the eyes of the community to the fact that they are travelling along weighted with a heavy and unnecessary load, which retards their upward and onward progress, and uselessly expends and cramps their energies; that now, as in 1839, they are martyrs to ignorance, and sufferers from a system, for the overthrow of which nothing but their own volition is required. In short, that necessary preparatory enlightenment of public opinion which Sir Rowland Hill's pamphlet accomplished in the matter of penny postage, it is the design of the present work to achieve for railway reform; and so mighty and unanswerable are its facts, and so lucid and irresistible its conclusions, that we hesitate not to say that the triumph of the views it advocates is merely a question of time. Whilst we have been occupied in striking off the fetters from commerce, and in preaching the doctrine of the necessary antagonism between monopolies and the interests of the public, strange to say there has been growing up in our midst a monopoly of a new and unheard-of character to which our fathers were strangers, and which, in the magnitude of its powers for evil, the weakness and worthlessness of the grounds on which it is defended, the ease with which it could be destroyed, and the unmixed benefit to all ranks which would accrue from its overthrow, may compare with the most characteristic and baleful specimens of the class.

The desirability, or rather the urgent necessity, for railway reform rests on the fact that, although the importance of facility of transit, both of goods and passengers, or, in other words, their conveyance at the *maximum* of speed and the *minimum* of cost, can hardly be exaggerated,—not only are the present charges excessive and out of all reasonable proportion to the cost of the service rendered, but there is no probability that the experiment of the greatest possible cheapness to the public will be tried under the present system.

The practical application of steam to the purposes of life was a gigantic step in man's progress, and may truly be said to mark a new era in the history of his career. Few discoveries have produced more important results, or promise in the future to work such mighty changes in the face of the civilized globe. Of all the variety of purposes to which steam has been applied, that of locomotion by means of railways stands first in point of importance. A pound of coke burned in a locomotive engine will evaporate five pints of water, and in this evaporation a mechanical force is developed sufficient to draw two tons weight on the railway a distance of one mile in two minutes. The same weight in a stage coach on a common road would require four horses, and occupy six minutes. Wonderful as are the results of the application of steam power to railway transit in an economic point of view—satisfactory as may be the fact of our having established throughout the country a system of transport the prime cost of which is so marvellously small—the drawback is that the public are to a large extent robbed of their share of these advantages, and that the laws of common sense, as well as of political economy, which prescribe that reduction in price should follow in due proportion to the reduction in cost, are grossly violated. Thirteen large companies monopolize about three-fourths of the railway traffic of the kingdom; above sixty smaller ones divide

amongst them the remaining fourth; and some seventy odd boards of directors hold these highways of the realm as a trust to be exercised, not for the benefit of the general community, but for the profit of the shareholders.

"It is universally acknowledged," says Mr. Galt, "that the first step from barbarism towards civilization is shown by the construction of public roads, and that in proportion as the facilities for intercourse throughout a country are extended, its happiness and prosperity are increased. In no country in the world has such an enormous expenditure been incurred as in Great Britain within the last thirty-five years in making public highways of the best construction and with all the modern improvements. Mountains have been bored through with incredible labour and expense; viaducts have been carried over deep valleys and wide rivers; the treacherous mass that scarcely a sheep could venture to cross now bears in safety the ponderous train drawn by the swift-flying locomotive. But that train, ponderous as it may appear, is comparatively empty; it conveys but fifty or sixty passengers, whilst, without any diminution in its speed or increase in its expense, three or four times that number might be seated in its carriages. There is the merchant who has business to transact; there is the trader who would fain go and personally select his own goods at the best market; there are the mechanic and the labourer with whom work is dull at home, but who know where it is brisk abroad; there is the invalid who would seek health, and the man of the world who only travels for recreation or pleasure: all are stopped by a HOSTILE TARIFF.

"A hostile tariff in free England! where, if anywhere on the face of the earth, it might be supposed there would be no endurance of any artificial hindrance to the extension of trade and commerce. We are told that the most elaborate and *recherché* mode of dressing a cucumber should only be made use of as a preliminary to throwing it out of the window; and on the same principle may our railways be said to have been constructed. Nothing that genius could invent or capital supply was spared to render them perfect; and then they were locked up from the great bulk of the people by a prohibitory tariff."

The average cost per mile of running the old stage coach carrying 16 passengers was 16d., exclusive of tolls, or 1d. per mile for each passenger when carrying its maximum load, whilst the average fare was 3d. inside, and 2d. outside, per mile. The average cost of conveying a train per mile is 30d., and 1,000 passengers are a fair maximum load—being one-third of a penny per mile for each passenger. But now comes the anomaly: whilst the average cost per passenger is only one-third of the cost by coach, the average fare, 2½d. per mile for 1st class, 1½d. per mile for 2nd class, and 1d. per mile for 3rd class, is two-thirds as much; in fact, the 1st and 2nd class passengers pay three-fourths of the fare they would have paid—the former as inside passengers, and the latter as outside passenger—by coach. Or, to state the case in another form: if a 1st or 2nd class passenger by railway were to pay a ½d. in lieu of each shilling in the present fare, he would be paying in the same ratio to the actual cost of his transport as he paid in the old coach fare—always supposing each conveyance to carry its maximum load.

Now, the vexatiousness of this comparative exclusion of the public from a share in the prodigious cheapening of the cost of transit by the application of steam power to railways is enhanced by the fact that the actual profits of railways are but slightly affected by the very lowest fares being adopted; so true is it that high fares means few passengers, and *vice versa*.

Although to the companies the expenditure per train per mile is nearly uniform, nothing can be more capricious, or less governed by any fixed principle, than their several tariffs for 1st class passengers. The fares vary from ½d. to 3½d. per mile, and for 3rd class from ¼d. to 1d. per mile. If the law tariff were universally, instead of partially and in very rare cases, adopted throughout the kingdom, there would be no ground to complain of undue charges. The cause of the high fares charged on most lines cannot be the great expense incurred in their construction, for, as a general rule, the lines with the lowest fares are precisely those which have been the most expensive to construct, whilst some of the lines which cost the least in the making charge double the fares of those which have cost the most. One of the most remarkable phenomena of railway statistics is that, within the range of fares adopted by the companies, the actual profit varies but comparatively little, whether a high, low, or medium fare be adopted. Unfortunately, however, with very few exceptions, the proprietors of railways have found it more to their advantage to carry the comparatively few at high fares than the multitude at low fares; and hence it becomes a question for the community to determine whether the same policy shall not be carried out with respect to railways which has proved so successful and satisfactory with reference to our postal rules, and to our customs and excise duties.

	1st cl.	2d cl.	3d cl.
"The actual cost of conveying a passenger 100 miles by railway, is .....	6d.	4d.	2½d.
"The actual fare is cheapest on North and South-Western ...	5s. 0d.	4s. 2d.	2s. 6d.
"Average charge represented by Great Western .....	16s. 8d.	12s. 6d.	7s. 6d.
"Highest charge represented by Carmarthen and Cardigan ...	£1. 9s. 2d.	16s. 8d.	8s. 4d."

Mr. Galt states that the superior credit of Government would enable it to borrow money at such a low rate as would yield a profit on the purchase of railways of 1½ per cent., or, according to another witness, £1. 7s. per cent., and that by the use of this surplus Government could make a great reduction in the fares without

\* Railway Reform. Its Importance and Practicability considered as affecting the Nation, the Shareholders, and the Government. By William Galt. London: Longman and Co.



incurring any loss, whilst another great source of economy would accrue from the diminution in the cost of management by the consolidation of upwards of seventy separate boards of directors into one. He proposes that the present shareholders should be offered such an amount of Government 3 per Cent. Stock as would give them a bonus of 15 per cent. on the market value of their shares, and considers that on these terms the transfer would be as beneficial to the shareholders themselves as to the community at large, releasing them from the danger of having their property depreciated by new lines, and giving it that certainty and stability of value which, it is notorious, it does not possess at present.

Mr. Galt maintains that the great bugbear in the way of the nation assuming the ownership of railways in its corporate capacity, viz., that it would increase the patronage of Government, has no existence, and that there is no necessary connection between the possession of railways by the State and their direct management by Government. They might be leased under Government control; but he proposes that they should be managed by twenty-four gentlemen selected from and by the principal railway-boards throughout the kingdom, who should form a general board of management of all the railways in Great Britain, to be presided over by a president and two vice-presidents appointed by the Crown, the office of one of the latter officials to be permanent, and that of the other, and of the president, to change with the Ministry. He furthermore suggests that the fares should be reduced to one-third their present amount, or  $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per mile per first class passengers,  $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per second class, and  $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per third class. The present charges for the conveyance of goods are in his opinion still more unjustifiable and injurious to the trade of the country than even the high passenger fares; for, whilst 100 tons of merchandise can be carried a mile for  $\frac{1}{3}$ d., or one ton 100 miles at the same cost, the authorized charges vary from 12s. 6d. up to £1. 17s. 6d. In the northern counties of England, coal is sold at the pit's mouth at 6s. or 7s. per ton, and, whilst the cost of conveyance to London is only some 2s. or 3s. per ton, the consumer is charged about three times the prime cost of this necessary of life. At the present rates, the charges for small parcels of little value are almost prohibitory; but, the principal expense of their transmission being the terminal ones of collection and delivery, they might be conveyed to every part of the kingdom at a low uniform rate, and a great benefit be conferred on the community. The proposed charges by passenger trains are—parcels not exceeding 3lb. 4d., 7lb. 6d., 10lb. 9d., 14lb. 1s.

In short, the great object of Mr. Galt's book (and admirably is it adapted to fulfil that object) is to teach the public the fact that this year an Act of Parliament comes into force, by the operation of which the fares and freightage on all railways throughout the country might be reduced two-thirds (being equivalent to a reduction of taxation to the amount of 24 millions) without any change whatever to the public, and the difference to the shareholders made up by the substitution of national for private credit—the sure and comparatively unfluctuating credit of the State for the uncertain and ever-changing credit inseparable from the existing position of railway property.

#### LACON IN COUNCIL.\*

MR. BOYES has produced a book which most persons would describe as a collection of aphorisms, or at least as having an aphoristic character; but, being alarmed at a saying of Lord Bacon's, that "in the writing of aphorisms discourse of illustration is cut off, recitals of examples are cut off, descriptions of practice are cut off," he renounces "all claim to the dignity of an aphorist," and describes his book as "a medley of maxims, similes, prose epigrams, *concetti*, and opinions generally backed by evidence." It is, at any rate, a collection of brief utterances, in which a great many thoughts on a great many subjects are stated in a somewhat imperative and dogmatic, because in a highly condensed and pithy, manner. On such important topics as "Education," "Folly," "Good Manners and Courtesy," "Literature, Poetry, Oratory, Genius," "Love, Marriage, the Fair Sex," "War and the Army," "Politics," "Religion," &c., he jerks out a number of observations, sometimes not amounting to more than a sentence or two, and at the most only extending to two or three pages, in which, of course, all detailed unfolding of his views is impossible, and we must take the opinion on the author's authority, or assent to it for the sake of its manifest and self-evident truth, or reject it summarily. We have generally found such books unsatisfactory. They fatigue by constant change of subject, and irritate by incompleteness of exposition. They have a tendency to oscillate between the assertion of paradoxes, which the writer states in the barest and most offensive way, and the enunciation of truisms to which the generality of men have already assented. "They are, of all books, the most likely to impose on inexperienced readers, because the oracular tone, inseparable from the concise and unargumentative style, gives an appearance of profundity which is frequently very far from real, and because there is always an implied assumption that what is thus given to the public is the quintessence of years of thought and reading. Maxims and detached sayings are often like epigrams—mere brilliant but delusive generalizations from a few exceptional instances, leaving entirely out of view those limitations and complexities which a more elaborate discourse, like a more thorough investigation, is sure to bring

within the range of vision. It is only a very great mind indeed which can thus distil truth without destroying it. An inferior mind may amuse, but is quite as likely to mislead or annoy the reader by attempting such a feat. A man does not care to see his own opinions drily stated without receiving any support; while, on the other hand, even the most candid are disinclined to have their cherished convictions curtly denied where not the smallest attempt is made to vindicate the denial.

Many experiments have been tried of late years in this species of writing, and Mr. Boyes himself is the author of one such work which has attained a position with the public. Confining our attention simply to the book now in our hands, we must say that we do not think the author has succeeded much better than others who have written in the same style. He is evidently a person of most extensive reading, and we do not deny that he has thought on what he has read; but there is little to satisfy an inquiring mind in such chips and crumbs of reflection. The plan of the work is to select some brief passage from a celebrated author (either English or foreign, ancient or modern), and to append a short commentary. We suspect that Mr. Boyes is in the habit of writing in the margin of his books, and that his present work is in a great measure a collection of these annotations. In the case of men of eminence, such as Coleridge, Southey, or Lamb, we are glad to see what thoughts were excited in their minds as they read their favourite authors; but then we know beforehand their leading principles, and do not need a detailed exposition, which we can find, if we wish it, in their published volumes. But when a book is put forward which can only hope to interest us on its own account, we are disappointed with such exceedingly broken food. Mr. Boyes is sometimes pithy and terse in his sayings, sometimes entertaining in his facts and his parallel passages; but he is as often shallow and common-place, and a certain flippant way he has of disposing of great questions in a pert little sentence or so, is at times extremely offensive. We have no doubt he does not at all propose to himself to be pert or flippant; the fault is mainly that of the form he has adopted, aided perhaps by a habit, often found among very bookish men, of fancying themselves privileged to be loftily contemptuous of the unlearned millions, because they do not consider the great end and aim of life to be the devouring of libraries. Here is an instance of the unsatisfactory suggestions of thought—useless, if not absolutely misleading—with which the book abounds:—

"Those who from laziness, apathy, or sham-benevolence, affect a false universal charity in their judgments of conduct or character, rarely fail to find acrimony enough when personally thwarted or offended."

If by this Mr. Boyes only means that persons of wide and general tolerance are not in every respect superior to the infirmities of temper when they are personally irritated, the remark is a mere truism. If, on the contrary, he means (as we suspect he does) that such persons are specially given to bitterness of tongue with regard to their own individual crosses—that the indulgence in this respect is the natural compensation for their moderation on more general grounds—or that the charitable habit is a mere hypocritical assumption which gives way at the first pressure—we must regard the observation as utterly false. In either case, the sentence requires explanation, and is simply idle as it stands. Having, however, made these objections, let us give a specimen of Mr. Boyes in his better vein. The following is, we think, a perfectly original remark, true, and happily expressed:—

"The antipathy of living authors to those dead ones whom they attack and depreciate, arises, I am convinced, very often from an instinctive feeling that those whom they thus attack would have been, if living, their most formidable antagonists or most successful rivals. Perhaps Macaulay had a lurking consciousness that his knowledge, imagination, and acrimony, would have met with their most direct and powerful match in the fierce, straightforward, unadorned irony of Swift."

We generally prefer Mr. Boyes in those longer sections of his work which have something of the character of essays. These often contain a good deal of information drawn from a variety of sources, and make us regret that the author has not given himself to essay-writing rather than to memorandum-making. A short discussion on the frequency of unhappy marriages among men of genius is worthy of note. Mr. Boyes writes:—

"The rare concurrence of genius with domestic comfort is perfectly awful. Take Dante, the exile, who left his wife, never wishing to see her more; take Tasso, wifeless; Petrarch, wifeless; Ariosto, wifeless; Milton, thrice married, but only once with much comfort; Dryden, wedded, like Addison, to a title and discord; Young lives alone till past fifty; Swift's marriage is no marriage; Sterne's, Churchill's, Byron's, Coleridge's marriages broken and unhappy. Then we have a set of celibates, Herrick, Cowley, Pope, Thomson, Prior, Gay, Shenstone, Gray, Akenside, Goldsmith, Collins, Cowper, and I know not how many more of our best poets. Johnson had a wife, loved and soon lost her. It is almost enough to make women tremble at the idea of allying themselves with genius, or giving birth to it.

"Take the philosophers.—Bacon, like his famous legal adversary, Coke, seems to have enjoyed little domestic comfort, and speaks, for, as he says, 'certain grave reasons,' disapprovingly of his partner. Our metaphysicians, Hobbes, Locke, Bentham, Butler, are as solitary as Spinoza and Kant. The celibate philosopher Hume conducts us to the other great bachelor historians, Gibbon and Macaulay; as Bishop Butler does to some of the princes of English divinity—Hooker cajoled into marrying a shrew, Chillingworth unmarried, Hammond unmarried, Leighton unmarried, Barrow also single. I only take fore-

\* *Lacon in Council*. By J. F. Boyes, Author of "Illustrations of Æschylus," "Life and Books," &c. London: Bell & Daldy.



most men; the list might be swelled with monarchs and generals miserable in marriage. . . .

"Why has this been? The reasons are many. Some of those enumerated above have owed their very greatness to that constitution of mind which allows little play to the affections or passions, finding all their happiness in one absorbing pursuit, and living their only true life in speculation. Others, full of a supreme ideal, are quick of disgust at the actual, and so never make a settlement, or start from it as soon as made. Others have been in a hurry to decorate from the wardrobe of their own fancy partners whom such robing would by no means fit, and who, so far from sympathizing with them, have not proved capable of being, in the slightest degree, even recipients of their intelligence. Others still have formed early and passionate attachments, which have stood in the way of a final and happy settlement, and so have broken terms with society, raging and smarting under the lash with which it tries to whip into some legitimate path the children of nonconformity."

This brief essay is founded on a passage in the late Lord Campbell's work on Shakespeare, in which it is remarked that the poet's wife was "left by her husband without house or furniture, except the second-best bed, or a kind word, or any other token of his love." Hereupon, Mr. Boyes remarks in a note that, "as far as mere property went, Mr. C. Knight, in the second volume of his interesting book, 'Fifty Years of a Working Life,' has shown that by law Shakespeare's wife was well provided for." We are surprised that so well-read a man as Mr. Boyes does not know that Mr. Knight had exhibited the true state of the case with regard to Shakespeare's will long before the publication of his autobiographical work. It is beyond dispute that our great dramatist's wife was not neglected in the cruel way commonly supposed; yet there is a coldness in the manner of alluding to her in the will which makes it but too probable that the marriage—as, indeed, tradition affirms—was not a happy one.

#### THE HOLY LAND.\*

EGYPT, Syria, Palestine, and the adjacent lands, have been so frequently traversed and described, especially in these days of rapid locomotion, that the subject might be supposed to have been long since worn quite threadbare. Indeed, almost all parts of the known world are now so completely within access of all persons of comfortable means, and therefore so thoroughly familiar to the community generally, that but little has been left to say even about countries remote from our own. M. de Pressensé, however, who has recently returned from a journey to the Holy Land, has been bold enough to publish the result of his travels and adventures in that part of the globe, in a series of notes and sketches which were written while he was staying at the various places he visited. Mindful of the want of novelty in his subject, M. de Pressensé introduces his book in a short preface, in which he says that, although there is nothing new under the sun, yet the sun itself, "by the exhaustless variety of its lights, presents things under incessantly new aspects." This has emboldened him to speak and write anew of Egypt, Palestine, and other Oriental countries, "in spite of all the noble books which have already transported us thither." He claims no other merit for the notes he now publishes than that of keeping alive the first impressions of the scenes which he witnessed. The notes themselves are now presented to the reader in exactly the same form as when they were first written, M. de Pressensé not having taken the trouble of formally re-arranging them as a book. The account of his travels in the Holy Land is preceded by two introductory chapters, the first of which gives a brief sketch of some of the principal works, historical, geographical, and religious, which have already been published on this subject by travellers or missionaries of different nations, with a running commentary on each, while the second contains a short description of the chief geographical divisions of Palestine. This is done in order to give the reader an easy clue by which to follow the author in his account of the various places through which he journeyed. M. de Pressensé embarked at Marseilles on board the ship *Dupleix*, on the 1st of March, 1864, and arrived at Alexandria, in Egypt, on the 5th of the same month, after a tolerably smooth passage. From Alexandria he travelled to Grand Cairo, thence to Heliopolis, from which he afterwards made an excursion to Memphis and the Pyramids, the principal one of which he ascended to its summit, and then quitted Egypt for Palestine, where he arrived on the 17th of March, landing at the ancient Jewish town of Jaffa. After spending some time in Palestine, and visiting the principal cities, remarkable public buildings, and other noteworthy places and objects in the Holy Land, M. de Pressensé next journeyed to Ephesus, from which he proceeded by sea to Turkey and Greece, and then travelled homewards *via* Athens and Venice, arriving in France about the commencement of last April, after rather more than a twelvemonth's absence from his native country. While in Egypt, our author's impressions of that beautiful country were that all its attractiveness and interest were centred entirely in its past history and associations. With regard to the Suez Canal, he observes that he does not desire to speak slightly of the enterprise, nor of the commercial prospects which it opens up; but, while wishing the scheme every possible success, he greatly prefers old ruins and monuments of remote ages to all modern improvements.

The present population of Jerusalem amounts only to 14,000 inhabitants, 5,000 of whom are Mussulmans and 6,000 Jews, the

remainder being Christians of various sects and denominations, including a number of Greeks, Latins, Armenians, and Protestants. The city also contains an English, a French, and a German church, in each of which service is performed in the respective languages of the countries they represent. Jerusalem is divided into four principal quarters, but, notwithstanding that it contains many fine buildings, it is for the most part a scene of filth, squalor, and misery, without a trace of Oriental luxury. M. de Pressensé gives an elaborate and graphic description of all the places and scenes he witnessed; but, as he only goes over the same ground which has been traversed at different periods by a host of others before him, very little need be said in the way of observation or comment. He seems always to have been powerfully impressed with what he saw or heard. As he tells us in his preface, he has described what he thought and felt, as well as what he witnessed. "I could not for a moment, says he, 'separate the places through which I passed from the memories which they called up.' Consequently, he has frequently entered into the history of the religions and other remarkable events of the various nations he visited. His volume is for the most part written in an easy, graceful, and flowing style, which at times rises into eloquence: the author is evidently a man of much feeling, and his narrative often breathes a tone of solemn religious fervour. The chief objection we have to make is, that the work is written almost throughout in that rhetorical and flowery style so common among Frenchmen, and that the writer is a little too prone to moralise and make obvious reflections on men and things. The translator has not, perhaps, altogether rendered his original into pure vernacular English, but has in some few places retained French forms of expression. Nevertheless, the book is very entertaining. We perceive that M. de Pressensé is about to publish a *Life of Christ*, which is to appear simultaneously in France and England, and to which we look forward with considerable interest.

#### THE ITALIAN REVENUE.\*

THE Arrivabenes—a noble Lombard family, long seated in the neighbourhood of Mantua, and connected with the historic Gonzagas—have for two generations been associated with the patriotic party which has so often struggled against the tyranny of Austria. Count John Arrivabene was concerned in the fruitless rising of 1821-2, and was obliged in consequence to leave the country. He was the friend of Silvio Pellico and of other eminent revolutionists, and has written a touching narrative of his misfortunes, which throws a very interesting light on the proceedings of the Carbonari in days anterior to Mazzini and Garibaldi. His nephew, Count Charles Arrivabene, the author of the pamphlet now before us, and of several works written in the English language, threw himself, with all the fervour of youth, into the movements of 1848-9, when for a brief time it seemed as if the cross of Savoy would have driven "the cursed flag of the yellow and black" across the German frontier; and, having thus earned what is to every Italian the most honourable of positions, that of an Austrian rebel, he was compelled, on the failure of the Sardinian cause, to fly to England. Here, after acquiring a knowledge of our language, he supported himself for some years as a Professor of Italian Literature at the London University, and in 1860, when acting as the correspondent of a London daily paper, was wounded and taken prisoner by the Neapolitans at the battle of the Volturno, one of Garibaldi's most brilliant engagements. In this pamphlet he assures the English public, and quotes convincing figures in support of his assertion, that the financial condition of Italy is perfectly sound. He does not deny that there is still a deficit, as there has been for some years; but he shows very satisfactorily that the hiatus is growing less and less, and may be expected shortly to disappear altogether. One source of the mistakes made by English financiers is very lucidly pointed out by Count Arrivabene. In this country it is the practice to confine our Budgets to a single year, and it has been inferred that the same custom obtains in Italy. Consequently, when Signor Sella asked for a loan of £17,000,000, in addition to the proceeds of the State railways, amounting to £8,000,000 (the circumstances connected with which we have already explained), it was supposed that the annual deficit amounted to the enormous sum of £25,000,000. The loan, however, is designed to cover the deficits of three budgets, and to meet a large amount of arrears left to the present Government by its predecessors. A loan might have been postponed till the end of 1865; "but it was judged better," says the statement before us, "to remove the uncertainty hanging over the Italian Rente, and even to make provision beforehand, both for past arrears and for two years in advance." That a country not yet delivered from the throes of revolution (for the fate of Rome and Venice has still to be decided, and there can be little doubt that it can only be decided in the midst of convulsion)—a country but recently constituted from many separate provinces long divorced from each other, and all more or less corrupted and impoverished by centuries of tyrannical and incompetent rule—that a country so circumstanced should be to some extent embarrassed in its financial affairs, is in no respect extraordinary; such a result, indeed, was almost inevitable. But it says much for the resources of the land that in so short a space of time the deficits should have begun to diminish. We find that whereas the deficit for 1864 was as high

\* The Land of the Gospel: Notes of a Journey in the East. By Edmond de Pressensé. London: Jackson, Walford, & Hodder.

\* The Finances of Italy. A Letter addressed by Count Arrivabene to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. London: Ridgway.



as £12,640,000, that for 1865 was £8,280,000, while that for 1866 is prospectively calculated at only £4,000,000. The last sum may appear startling; but Signor Sella, the Minister of Finance, has pledged himself so to reduce the national expenditure while augmenting the revenue as to bring the deficit for the ensuing year within that comparatively trifling amount. Signor Sella has already accomplished sufficient to justify us in giving faith to his promises for the future. Within two months after his accession to office, he effected a reduction in the expenditure of more than two millions, of which £1,600,000 was in the Department of War, and £500,000 in the Naval Department:—

"Energetic measures have also been taken to increase the revenue. An income-tax has been imposed which is estimated to yield £2,400,000 in 1865. The equalization of the land-tax will also yield a considerable additional revenue; while the increase of the tobacco-duty and stamps, and other measures, are estimated to produce more than another million.

"On the whole, therefore, it seems certain that in the year 1866 the ordinary revenue of the country will not be less than £27,000,000 or £28,000,000, while its expenditure will not exceed £32,000,000—thus realizing Signor Sella's pledge of reducing the deficit within the limit of £4,000,000. This estimate, it must be observed, is based on the supposition that the army of Italy is not to be materially reduced below its present footing. If the effect of the Franco-Italian Convention and the transfer of the capital to Florence should be such as to lead to a period of political tranquillity, when an extensive disarmament may become possible, much larger reductions of expenditure would appear practicable, and an equilibrium might at once be established."

To the ordinary resources of taxation must be added a probable sum of £80,000,000, accruing from the sale of the property of convents, monasteries, and other ecclesiastical corporations. Count Arrivabene calculates that, if peace be preserved for three or four years, the Italian kingdom will be established with a National Debt of from £200,000,000 to £250,000,000, and a Budget in equilibrium of about £30,000,000 a year, with extraordinary resources to meet extraordinary demands. We sincerely hope his anticipations will be realized; and we see no reason to doubt that, with wisdom and care on the part both of Government and people, such will be the case. Italy has a population of more than 22,000,000, for the most part industrious and saving; she has before now been illustrious in commerce; her internal riches are great; even as matters stand, the average taxation per head of her population is less than that of most large European countries; and, with freedom, stability, and peace, her resources might be developed to almost any amount. To this end we see her even now advancing, with a steadiness which encourages the happiest anticipations for the coming days.

#### SHORT NOTICES.

*The Critical Essays of a Country Parson.* By the Author of "The Recreations of a Country Parson." (Longmans.)—"A. K. H. B." is certainly a great economist. He knows thoroughly well the secret of getting a double amount of wear out of all his garments—of turning everything to the utmost possible account. He must have made a little fortune by republishing his essays from various publications; he utilises his old sermons by printing them in a book; and now he hunts up certain reviews which he wrote in the early days of his authorship, and binds them into a goodly-sized sheaf, which suggests to our minds a complacent reflection that, if we chose to follow his example, we might furnish the library shelves with several ready-made volumes, the component parts of which have never presented themselves to our minds in any such substantial shape. Seriously, the plan of reprinting reviews may be carried too far, though it is certain that we are indebted to this practice for some of our best modern collections of literary and historical criticism. Where a man has deeply studied a subject, and uses the work which he reviews as a centre round which to group the treasures of his own knowledge, it would be a serious loss if the essays so elaborated were to be washed away in the ceaseless flux of periodical publications. But in the case of ordinarily clever reviewing it is hardly worth while to reproduce what was only designed for the current week, month, or quarter. We make these observations in a general sense, rather than with any special application to "The Country Parson." The critical essays here reprinted appeared originally in *Fraser's Magazine*, and they mostly sustain the reputation of that publication for good, thoughtful, scholarly writing. We are only doubtful whether there is in them sufficient originality and weight to justify their being again brought forth after having once served their turn. If all reviews equally good were to be collected in a handsome and imposing volume, we should be deluged by the regurgitant stream. Perhaps, however, "A. K. H. B." would say that that is a consideration for others, and not for himself; and we do not deny that the volume before us contains some pleasant and not unprofitable reading. The most substantial article in the series is that on recent metaphysical works by Mr. G. H. Lewes, Mr. Maurice, and Mr. Fleming; the one most full of the writer's own calling, a review of a work on the use of the organ in Scotch Presbyterian worship; the one most chiefly marked by "A. K. H. B.'s" gossiping tendencies, the essay entitled "Life at the Water Cure." But none are below the mark, and some are above par. The volume may be recommended for occasional reading, as one easy in its matter, yet not devoid of materials for thought.

*Man, considered Socially and Morally.* By George Sparkes, late Madras Civil Service. (Longmans.)—Mr. Sparkes was for some years in the habit of writing down, by way of mental exercise, such opinions on moral and social topics as he had heard or read. These

he has now arranged, digested, and added to, so as to form a small body of reasoning on all the weightiest questions of religion and metaphysics, including the creation of the world (whether by chance, or by the action of a Supreme Being), the attributes of the Deity, the value of prayer, the existence of angels, the qualities of matter, the nature of life, the fixity of species, the immortality of the soul, the age of the world, the moral sense, freewill, death, the origin of evil, &c. The several arguments advanced are not those of Mr. Sparkes: they are for the most part selected from the writings of Aristotle, Locke, Butler, Paley, Coombs, Whately, and J. S. Mill; and in many cases the very words have been employed. Mr. Sparkes, therefore, does not claim to be considered much more than the compiler of the little volume before us; but we think he has compiled judiciously and well. His book presents, in a highly concentrated but still very effective form, the thoughts and arguments of many admirable minds on subjects the most profound and interesting. Of course it does not dispose of all that can be said on those subjects; but it is excellently adapted to serve as an introduction to more elaborate treatises.

*What I saw in Puteoli, Naples, and Rome. Another Narrative from the Pulpit; with an Inside View of my own Parish Church.* By S. Smith, M.A., Vicar of Lois Weedon, and Rural Dean. (Longmans.)—This is not exactly a book of travels, though the title might seem to imply as much. It is a collection of religious discourses, delivered, as far as we can make out from a rather obscure preface, in the writer's church, and now printed in the form of a book. Mr. Smith was some years ago afflicted with doubts, not as to the general truth of the Bible, nor as to its inspiration, but with respect to the consistency of its teaching throughout. In the course of his struggle with those doubts (which he subsequently vanquished), he wrote out the whole history of the Christian Church, as related in the Bible, "filling up from authentic records the vacancy between the Old Testament and the New." The book which he thus produced he took with him in his travels, first in Syria, Palestine, and Greece, and afterwards in the southern half of the Italian peninsula. His wanderings in the first-mentioned countries he has already related in a work bearing the sub-title, "A Narrative from the Pulpit;" and he now gives the world "Another Narrative from the Pulpit," tracing the course of the Apostle Paul in Naples and Rome. "It was not surprising," writes Mr. Smith, "that the characters of the Bible he had known so intimately and so long, should, on touching their footmarks, start into being before his eyes, and act over again the incidents of their lives." We can thoroughly appreciate the reverend gentleman's enthusiasm in this respect; and we have no doubt that the volume before us, which follows the final acts of Paul's life on the very scene of their occurrence, will possess a deep interest and charm for the large body of readers which it specially addresses.

*Popular Genealogists; or, the Art of Pedigree-making.* (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas.)—The author of this treatise congratulates himself and his readers on those flippant and scuffling days having past when wicked wags, such as Voltaire, Walpole, and Chesterfield, presumed to throw ridicule on the subject of pedigree. In these days, our sceptics are busy about other matters, and so the genealogist's art or science escapes irreverent attacks. The subject is now once more thought worthy of the researches of the learned; and "heraldry itself, after having been abandoned to coach-painters and undertakers, has again come into favour, having been found to be a valuable, if not indispensable, aid to the knowledge both of family and of national history." But all this brightness is not without its accompanying shadow: "genealogical literature of a more popular kind," on which the general public rely, is stuffed full of errors, and it is impossible to say how much the trusting reader is misled in the matter of Lord A.'s or Sir Charles B.'s remote progenitors. Sir Bernard Burke's "Peerages," &c., are more particularly objected to, and we know not what crimes are not proved against them. Of course this is very sad, and any one who wishes to learn all about it, and to wander in the enchanting mazes of Scotch genealogy, cannot do better than peruse this delectable and inspiring record.

*The Post Office Directory of Lancashire, Liverpool, and Manchester.* With Maps engraved expressly for the Work. Edited by E. R. Kelly, M.A. (Kelly & Co.)—We have in this bulky volume one of a series of Directories of the English counties, which will contain a topographical description of each, together with a list of the inhabitants of the towns, villages, and townships. Judging by the work before us, the series will be of immense service to men of business, and to persons visiting the counties and towns so treated. The *Lancashire Directory*, of which the second edition has just been published, is constructed on a similar plan to the *London Directory*, and, like that wonderful production of care and industry, contains a vast amount of information, admirably arranged and clearly printed. The accounts of the towns, villages, &c., are full of useful and interesting details, and present an amount of curious reading such as we do not generally look for in a Directory. Some very excellent maps are added, and we think the Messrs. Kelly may fairly be congratulated on having accomplished a task which in almost any other country could only have been performed by Government agency.

*The Home Nurse, and Manual for the Sick Room.* By Esther Le Hardy. (Hardwicke.)—We have of late received several little manuals with reference to the sick room, to the preservation of health, to extempore help in accidents, and to the rules of domestic medicine. The noble exertions of Miss Nightingale and other charitable ladies during the days of the Crimean war gave an impetus to all subjects connected with nursing, hospital arrangements, and sanitary precautions; and it can hardly be but that great good will result from the accumulation of so much experience and the publication of such matured advice. Miss Le Hardy's is another book added to the list; and, from the glance we have given at its directions, we should say that it is written with judgment and good sense.

*Contemporary Scottish Art: a Series of Pen and Ink Pictures drawn from the Exhibition of 1865.* By James B. Manson, Author of "Pen and Ink Pictures by Euphranor." (Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.)—



Mr. Manson aims at doing for the Scottish Academy what Mr. Ruskin has done for the Royal Academy of London. He has subjected the works exhibited at Edinburgh to an independent criticism, written in his own name, and therefore delivered from the restraints of journalistic utterance. In the pamphlet criticizing the last Northern Exhibition, he expresses himself very enthusiastically as to the recent achievements of Scotch genius, and he gives an extremely lively and vivid idea of the chief works there presented to the public. We almost see the pictures he describes so well, and we conclude with a strong desire to make a more intimate acquaintance with the art-creations of our Caledonian brethren.

We have received Part I. of *A Manual of Country Building*, by the Rev. G. Scrutton (Rivingtons);—*An Attempt to Approximate to the Antiquity of Man, by Induction from Well-Established Facts*, by Sir William Denison, K.C.B., Colonel Royal Engineers (Higginbotham, Madras)—a brief pamphlet in answer to recent anti-Biblical theories;—a second edition, enlarged, of *Goodeve's Elements of Mechanism* (Longmans);—a third edition of *Life in Normandy* (Edmonston & Douglas);—further *Sessional Papers* of the Royal Institute of British Architects;—and Nos. XIX.-XX. (double number) of the *Autographic Mirror*.

#### LITERARY GOSSIP.

MR. ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE, whose "History of the Commonwealth of Florence" we hope to notice in an early number, has just experienced the heaviest calamity which can befall a man, in the death of his wife, Theodosia Trollope, who for many years has resided with her husband in the historic capital of Tuscany. She was herself a literary woman of no mean ability, and was for a long time the Florentine correspondent of the *Athenæum*, in which periodical her letters on the social aspects of the Italian revolution, and on the artistic and literary gossip of the city of the Arno, attracted the attention of all who were interested in the reawakening of one of the most remarkable nations of Europe. Some of those letters have been reprinted in a volume, and Mrs. Trollope was also known as the translator of Nicolini's "Arnoldo di Brescia," and as the author of several articles on the modern Italian poets in the *Cornhill Magazine*, and of a few papers in *All the Year Round*. Her sympathy with the Italian cause was of the most intense and passionate kind; and she could speak the language of the people with the fluency of a native, besides being familiar with French, German, and Spanish. She is said, by one who knew her intimately, to have been equally accomplished as an amateur artist and musician; and we are not surprised to find the Italian papers, such as the *Gazzetta del Popolo* and the *Nazione* speaking in terms of the deepest regret at her loss. Theodosia Trollope was, we believe, a Devonshire woman, and was one other instance of the affinity that seems to exist between the people of that lovely county and the artistic South.

Seekers after rare or curious books on our London bookstalls will not be displeased to learn what chances exist for an occasional "find" in the Paris shops. Situated on the quays, there are 75 keepers of bookstalls. Amongst them are some 1,050 boxes, holding, on an average, about 75 or 80 volumes. There are consequently between 78,750 and 86,400 volumes constantly on sale. About 1,200 or 1,500 volumes are sold daily, returning a profit of 1,000 francs to the dealers. They pay a tax, which was first levied by Henry IV., in favour of his footmen, at the rate of 25 francs for every ten yards they occupy. A Paris writer says:—"It is incredible what valuable works one may find among these 80,000 volumes. The illiterate fellows attend all the book-auctions; and everything that is sold cheap, they buy. One may go almost any fair day (for the rainy days are *dies non* in their calendar) on the quays, and obtain autographs (in presentation-copies) of the most eminent men of the day. They are full just now of presentation-copies, sent to the late M. Biot and to M. Guizot's daughter and son-in-law, M. and Mme. de Witte, which are filled with curious autograph notes from affectionate friends. Literary people of eminence here are accused of selling all the least-valuable presentation-copies they receive (and they receive numbers) to these petty booksellers. The ardent book-hunter begins to beat these covers at nine o'clock in the morning, and he bags all the game he wishes. Every day new books are brought forth; for many of these men have thousands of volumes at home. I have been to the lair of one of them (it looked like an old stable), and I am sure there were at least 20,000 volumes in it. A sedulous frequenter of the quays must see every week some 240,000 volumes pass before his eyes."

The sale of sketches and drawings from the pencil of John Leech is now over. About £4,000 has been realized for the family. At first the biddings were very brisk; but they soon dropped, and the several drawings have not, in the bulk, sold so well as was anticipated. Crowds thronged Messrs. Christie & Manson's room during the three days' sale; and the personal friends of the late artist were there to secure favourite scraps from his portfolio. Some of the sketches brought only from 10s. to 20s. each, whilst others, which had caught the eye of two or more energetic bidders, realized £15 and £20 a piece. The "Foxhunters carousing" brought £12. 12s.; "The Road to the Derby," £22. 1s.; "The Recent Absurd Case of Pledging," £11. 6s.; and "Recollection of a jolly old Paterfamilias," &c., £23. 2s. Artists of eminence were there; literary men whose writings are read wherever the English language is spoken were there; the great leaders and chroniclers of public opinion from the *Times* Office were there: all come to carry away a memorial of the genial artist, who will long be spoken of as the Hogarth of the 19th century. Lot 284, "The Mermaid's Haunt," &c., was secured by Mr. Samuel Lucas, one of the *Times* staff, and now in the editorial chair of the *Shilling Magazine*. It is well known that this gentleman has one of the finest collections of engravings and objects of vertu in London; but he cheerfully paid down £30 for the drawing of the Mermaid. Lot 330, "Young Northamptonshire," was secured by

Mr. Dasent, also of the *Times* Office, and an old friend of the Leech family, for £18. 7s. 6d. Lot 332, "A Nice Bracing Day at the Seaside," was purchased by the famous artist, Mr. Millais.

Mr. Edward Hertslet, librarian and keeper of the Foreign Office papers, has just published, through Mr. RIDGWAY, of Piccadilly, his long-announced "General Index to British and Foreign State Papers." It is really an alphabetical list of the various papers in the Foreign Office, contained in forty-two large volumes, which papers extend over a period of nearly five centuries. The system adopted by Mr. Hertslet is chronological as well as alphabetical.

Some curious particulars of Junius Brutus Booth, the father of Wilkes Booth, the reputed assassin of President Lincoln, may be found in Oxberry's "Dramatic Biography," and in the fourth volume of the "Georgian Era." The grandfather, a man of violent political principles, who ever regretted that nature had not made him a Frenchman, and cast his lot among the stirring times of the French Revolution, named his son after that "Junius" who some time before agitated English political circles with his famous "Letters." This man lived an erratic life in this country and on the Continent, until he was compelled to fly to America. The idea of the family that they were to be the avengers of tyrants pursued him here, and he named his son after the notorious demagogue, John Wilkes. The political madness hereditary to the family is said, by those who knew him, to be more intense in this wretched man than in either the father or grandfather. There are some portraits of Junius Brutus Booth extant, and one or two small plays, which will now acquire a miserable interest from the misdeeds of the son.

The case of Low v. Routledge is again before the Law Courts. It will be remembered that Vice-Chancellor Kindersley assured the plaintiff, at the first hearing, that when technical objections were removed he would grant an injunction to restrain the Messrs. Routledge from issuing any more copies of their cheap edition of "Haunted Hearts," by Miss Maria S. Cummins. The demurrer relied upon by the defendants was overruled, and now it is supposed a higher Court will be appealed to.

Caricature in plaster bids fair to become as popular here as it is in certain countries on the Continent. *Punch*, and the other comic sheets, will not now have our political fun and satire in their own hands. A few clever Frenchmen and Italians have bethought themselves that the Premier, Earl Russell, Gladstone, Layard, and the other members of the Cabinet, would contribute as much fun in plaster of Paris as in the chocolate-coloured cement of the Palais Royal figures, or in the wood-blocks of Mr. Mark Lemon. Who does not remember Leech's clever burlesque of the French figures of "Milord" and his daughters? The first subject chosen by the artists is entitled "L'Entente Cordiale," and represents Lord Palmerston in a spruce dress coat, and well-brushed hair, arm in arm with Napoleon, who is represented as a little thick-set Zouave, capering with delight at the idea of possessing such a friend, and twirling his well-pointed moustache with savage glee. The figures are given with immense spirit. Lord Palmerston is the gay old diner-out of half a century since; a carefully preserved and fastidious churchwarden and bank director in spotless clothes, whose manners all bows, whose whiskers all curls, only contrasts the more with the little, laughing, jesting soldier hanging on his arm. The artist has been somewhat severe with the portrait of our Premier, and the lines of age and political care under the eyes have been chiselled with an unpleasant significance. It will probably not be admitted into France.

Mr. Gilbert, well known as the able historian of Dublin, recently announced, at a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, that the French Government had presented to that institution forty-three large volumes on "Palæography," recently published. A correspondent, speaking of this gift, says that these interesting volumes consist of French historical documents and records, published under the direction of the Minister of Public Instruction in France. Accompanying the presentation there were several *fac-similes* of original documents from the Merovingian period to the year 1600. They seem to have been executed in an admirable manner. The French Government have also sent to the Academy the report of the Imperial Commission on the Archæology of Ancient Gaul, which had been undertaken in connection with the Emperor's "Life of Cæsar." This valuable presentation to our records was made through the French consul.

Readers of the recent newspaper reports of police interference with cockfighters in London and Cheshire may not be aware that the old "cocking" literature of the last and previous centuries has recently been very generally called for amongst dealers in old book. At one time, every book of games—including the then respectable and widely circulated publications of Seymour, Hoyle, and Smith—had its chapter on cockfighting, "with the manner of breeding game cocks." Early in the present century, the chapter on "Cocking" was discontinued, and at this moment no publication treating upon the subject is believed to be "in print"—so far as this country is concerned. Admirers of the sport have therefore been driven to bygone literature for advice and instruction. One of the principal works is that bearing the name of "John Card." It gives numerous and very full particulars of breeding, rearing, training, and general management. The work at the present moment is much sought after. Those curious on this literature may have met with the following:—

"The Commendation of Cocks and Cockfighting, wherein is shewed, that Cockfighting was before the Coming of Christ, by George Wilson. Lond. 1607."

It is one of the earliest English works upon the subject, and copies have realized £8, and even £10.

The correspondence of Richard, first Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, who collected such wonders of art and literature at the famous Stowe Park, in Buckinghamshire, which were dispersed to the four winds fifteen years since, is announced for sale by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, of Leicester-square. From the duke's exalted station and extensive acquaintance in political and literary circles, the correspondence ought to be of great interest. Portions of the letters have been used in the published "Autobiography" of the duke; but, as many of the writers are, or were then, living, a much larger share remains unpublished.



Another history of caricature is announced. M. Champfleury, the well-known French writer, will shortly issue his "Histoire de la Caricature Antique," illustrated by the most curious engravings. The work has been a long time in hand, and the literati of Paris look forward to a very valuable book. It is said that the author possesses in a high degree the power and bitterness of satire of Thackeray, combined with the humour of Dickens. A correspondent speaks of the author as himself a caricaturist of no mean order, and remarks that "he delights in caricature, not only because it laughs down many of the major and minor humbugs of society, and wages war on all sham, cant, and conventionalism, but because it tends to improve the moral tone of society by exciting mirth, which is decidedly serviceable to our bodily health. Champfleury agrees with Professor Hufeland, of Berlin, that the royal practice of having buffoons and jesters at table during meals was founded on true medical principles."

Messrs. SMITH, ELDER, & Co. announce as nearly ready a new novel by Mr. Ruskin, entitled "Kings' Treasures and Queens' Gardens;" also "The Conspect, a Tale of the French War," from the French; "Grey's Court," edited by Lady Chatterton, 2 vols.; and "Grasp your Nettle," a novel, by G. Lynn Linton, 3 vols.

Mr. BENTLEY will publish immediately "The Exodus of the Western Nations," by Viscount Bury, M.P., 2 vols.; "A General History of Music," by Dr. Schluter, translated from the German by Mr. Tubbs, revised and corrected by the author; &c.

Messrs. SMITH, ELDER, & Co. announce their intention to issue in future their Shilling Series of Works of Fiction in monthly volumes, with the Magazines. The twenty-eight volumes already published (forming the First Series) have become popular, and the publishers promise for each volume of the New Series the additional feature of an illustrated cover and title-page. The volume advertised for the 1st of May is "The Simple Woman," by the author of "Nut-brown Maids," "Meg of Elibank," &c.

Mr. F. PITMAN will shortly publish "A Handbook for the Man of Business;" "Scepticism and Spiritualism," by the authoress of "Aurelia;" and "The Wild Garland, or Curiosities of Poetry," Vol. I.

DIDIER & Co. announce a new and revised edition of "Le Sommeil et les Rêves," by M. Alfred Maury, of the Institut.

We hear that M. Lamouliere, the author of "Types Inconnus du Vieux Paris," will publish in periodical parts, illustrated, a book intitled "Les Jésuites." It is said that it will contain some singular revelations.

On the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, the last volume of M. Hugo's translation of Shakespeare appeared.

M. Etienne Enault has published at the house of ACHILLE FAURE a very interesting volume, called "Scènes Dramatiques du Mariage."

"L'Essai sur l'Histoire du Gouvernement et la Constitution Britanniques" is the title of a French translation which has just appeared at DENT's of Earl Russell's essay on the above subject. It is said to be in great demand.

## LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR THE WEEK.

- Ainsworth (W. H.), Mervyn Clitheroe. Cheap edit. Fcap., 1s.  
 Annual Register (The). 1864. 8vo., 18s.  
 Beard (J. R.), Christ the Interpreter of Scripture. 8vo., 10s. 6d.  
 Biley (Rev. E.), The Elohistic and Jehovistic Theory Examined. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Blackwood (S. A.), Forgiveness, Life, and Glory. 2nd edit. Fcap., 2s.  
 Burges (W.), Art applied to Industry. 8vo., 4s.  
 Burgen (Rev. J. W.), Plain Commentary on the Gospels. New edit. 5 vols. Fcap., 21s.  
 Bury (Visc.), The Exodus of the Western Nations. 2 vols. 8vo., 32s.  
 Calendar of State Papers—Elizabeth, 1581—1590. Edited by R. Lemon. Imp. 8vo., 15s.  
 Candlish (Dr. R. S.), The Fatherhood of God. 8vo., 15s.  
 Collier (W. F.), Pictures of the Periods. Cr. 8vo., 7s. 6d.  
 Collins (C. J.), Sackville Chase. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Denton (J. B.), Farm Homesteads of England. 2nd edit. Folio, £3. 3s.  
 Dickens (C.), Pickwick Papers. People's Edition. Vol. II. Cr. 8vo., 2s.  
 Duncan (J. F.), The Personal Responsibility of the Insane. Cr. 8vo., 3s.  
 Fisher (H. W.), Considerations on the American War. Fcap., 2s. 6d.  
 Garratt (Rev. S.), The Midnight Cry. New edit. Cr. 8vo., 4s.  
 Gilbert (J. W.), Practical Treatise on Banking. New edit. 2 vols. 8vo., 21s.  
 Goulburn (Rev. E. M.), Family Prayers. 3rd edit. Fcap., 3s.  
 Grant (J.), Law of Bankers and Banking. 2nd edit. 8vo., 21s.  
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 Graham (C. S.), Mystifications. Small 4to., 5s.  
 Gray (J. E.), Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps. New edit. Fcap., 1s.  
 Hamel (F. J.), Protestantism in Peril. 8vo., 3s. 6d.  
 James (G. P. R.), The Robber. Cheap edit. Fcap., 1s.  
 Jewett (L.), Life of J. Wedgwood. 8vo., 18s.  
 Lawson (W.), Geography of River Systems. New edit. Fcap., 1s.  
 ———— Coast Lines. 5th edit. Fcap., 1s.  
 Life in Normandy. 3rd edit. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Lillywhite's Guide to Cricketers, 1865. Fcap., 1s.  
 Light in the Dwelling. New edit. Cr. 8vo., 8s.  
 Masheder (R.), The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. A Political Review. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Merivale (Rev. C.), History of the Romans under the Empire. New edit. Vol. IV. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Memoirs read before the Anthropological Society. Vol. I. 8vo., 21s.  
 Mill (J. S.), Examination of Sir W. Hamilton's Philosophy. 8vo., 11s.  
 Murray & Co.'s Handbook for Railway Travellers. Fcap., 1s. 6d.  
 Oxenham (H. M.), The Catholic Doctrine of the Atonement. 8vo., 8s. 6d.  
 Peoples, Places, and Things, by Author of "Lost Sir Massingberd." Cr. 8vo., 4s. 6d.  
 Ponsonby (Lady E.), Violet Osborne. 3 vols. Cr. 8vo. £1. 11s. 6d.  
 Popular Genealogists. Fcap., 4s.  
 Scott (Capt. A. N.), Sketches in India. 4to., £3. 3s.  
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For the purposes of the Company the position of the premises is not to be surpassed (as will be seen on reference to the plan): they are in close proximity to Sutton Harbour; forming the sea-board of Catwater Anchorage, and are completely sheltered, first by the Plymouth Breakwater, and next by the Peninsular of Mount Batten, in addition to which the approaches to the premises are completely commanded by the guns of the Citadel. The Branch Station of the South Devon Railway Company is situated in the immediate vicinity, and H.M. Dockyard, Devonport, is within an easy distance.

This Company will offer unusual facilities for carrying on the proposed business in consequence of both labour and the freight of Iron, Coal, and Timber being extremely low, added to which much expense will be saved, as the materials will be delivered on the Quays of the Company free of all dues and charges.

At present there are no Iron Ship-Building Works at Plymouth, and much inconvenience and expense often results to Ship-owners in consequence of vessels outward bound having to put back to London for repair.

The Directors consider it unnecessary to allude to the other advantages possessed by this Company, further than to state that there is a great and growing demand for such works as they propose to carry on.

The operations of the Company will be conducted by Mr. JOSEPH BANKS, who will devote his well-known experience exclusively to the interests of the Company, aided by gentlemen of acknowledged mechanical skill. As the whole of the valuable property has been ceded to the Directors upon terms which are considered highly advantageous, the profitable result of the undertaking may be deemed as assured.

Interest at the rate of £6 per cent. is guaranteed for three years by the International Contract Company, Limited.

In the event of no Allotment of Shares being made, the deposit will be returned in full. Should a less number of Shares be allotted than are applied for, the deposit will be made available towards the payment on allotment, and the balance (if any) returned to the applicant.

A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be inspected at the office of the Solicitors, Brokers, and 85, Cannon-street West.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained at the Offices of the International Contract Company, 85, Cannon-street West, and of the Bankers, Brokers, and Solicitors.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.**

No. ....  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE PLYMOUTH SHIP-BUILDING, DOCK,  
AND IRON WORKS COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers (Messrs. ....) the sum of £1 per Share on Shares in the above Company, I request that you will allot me that number of Shares, and I hereby agree to accept such Shares, or any less number that may be allotted to me, and to pay the deposit on allotment, and to sign the Articles of Association of the Company when required, and I authorize you to place my name on the Register of Members in respect of the Shares allotted to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Usual Signature .....  
Name in full .....  
Residence in full .....  
Profession .....  
Date .....

**THE LONDON AND MEDITERRANEAN BANK, LIMITED.**

Capital, £2,000,000 Sterling, in 100,000 Shares of £20 each  
Of which 80,000 Shares have been already Subscribed.

Deposit, £1 per Share on Application, and £1. 10s. on Allotment; and £1. 10s. further within Three Months after Allotment.

**DIRECTORS.**

Monsieur ARSENE BERNARD (Messrs. E. Landau & Co.), Alexandria.

Monsieur FRANÇOIS BRAVAY, Merchant, Alexandria; and Member of the Imperial Legislative Chamber of France.

WILLIAM W. CARGILL, Esq., M.P., Connaught-place West, Hyde-park.

JAMES B. CUMMING, Esq. (Messrs. Cumming & Co.), Leadenhall-street.

ALBERT LANDAU, Esq., Banker, Vienna.

EMILE LANDAU, Esq. (Messrs. E. Landau & Co.), Alexandria.

WILLIAM J. MAXWELL, Esq., Director of the National Provincial Bank of England.

WALTER MELLER, Esq., Broadlands, Clapham-common.

Hon. RODEN NOEL, Warlies, Waltham Abbey.

ROBERT A. ROUTH, Esq., Chairman of the English and Australian Copper Company.

**BANKERS.**

Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, Twells, & Co., 54, Lombard-street, E.C.

The London and County Bank, 21, Lombard-street, E.C.

The Branches of The National Provincial Bank of England.

**AUDITORS.**—Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs, & Co., Public Accountants, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C.

**SOLICITORS.**—Messrs. Wilkinson, Stevens, & Wilkinson, Nicholas-lane, E.C.

**BROKERS.**

Messrs. J. & A. Scrimgeour, 10, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Messrs. Huggins & Rowell, 1, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

**SECRETARY.**—George Cumming, Esq.

**TEMPORARY OFFICES.**—9, King's Arms-yard, Moorgate-street, E.C.

**PROSPECTUS.**

THIS Company is formed for the purpose of converting the £100 Shares of the Continental Bank Corporation into Shares of £20, and to carry out the amalgamation of that Bank with the Bank of Messrs. E. Landau & Co., of Alexandria, and for facilitating commercial, financial, and monetary transactions between this country, the Continent, and Egypt.

Five of the £20 Shares in this Company will be allotted to the Shareholders in the Continental Bank, in exchange for each of their present £100 Shares. The £20 Shares allotted in exchange for Shares on which £25 has been paid, will be credited with £5 paid up; and those allotted in exchange for Shares, on which £15 only has been paid, will be credited with £3 paid up.

The arrangements which have been made for amalgamating and managing the business of the above establishments are such as, aided by the high Egyptian connections of Messrs. Landau, cannot fail to secure to this Company a very extensive and profitable business.

The establishment of Messrs. Landau & Co., at Alexandria, in addition to its regular banking operations, has long enjoyed an extensive connection with producers and exporters of produce in Egypt. This business has always yielded most favourable results; and no better proof of this can be given than the fact that the firm, during the whole of its existence, as well as the other banks lately established in Egypt, have experienced an absolute immunity from loss in their transactions of this class of business.

The daily increasing trade of Egypt with Europe, and especially with England, is also a sure guarantee for the enhanced future success of this Company; the profits hitherto realized by Messrs. Landau & Co. are alone sufficient to yield a large return upon the capital proposed to be called up; and the several partners of the firm, in order to show their confidence in the future success of the Company, have taken a large number of Shares, and will continue in the active management of the business at Alexandria.

The Bank has also secured the co-operation, as a Director, of M. BRAVAY, whose exertions will be especially devoted to the extension of the Bank's relations with the Egyptian Government—a class of transactions in which he has hitherto engaged with very successful results.

The amalgamated establishments propose liquidating all their present transactions up to the date of amalgamation.

The Articles of Association of this Company, and the Agreement entered into for acquiring the business of Messrs. Landau & Co., can be seen on application at the Office of the Solicitors.

A deposit of £1 upon each Share must be paid at the Offices of either of the Bankers of the Company, on application, according to the annexed form.

Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained of the Secretary, at the Company's Offices, and of the Bankers and Brokers.

**FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.**

(To be retained by the Bankers.)

No. ....

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE LONDON AND MEDITERRANEAN  
BANK, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £1 being a deposit of £1 per share on Shares in the above Company, I hereby request that you will allot me that number, and I agree to accept such Shares, or any less number that you may allot to me, and to become a Member of the Company in respect of the Shares allotted to me. I further authorize you to forward by post to my address, as below, the Certificates for the Shares which may be allotted to me.

Usual signature .....  
Name in full .....  
Residence .....  
Profession .....  
Date .....

ESTABLISHED 1837.

**BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**—  
Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 4 Vict. Cap. 9. 1, Princes-street, Bank, London.

**DIRECTORS.**

George Bevington, Esq., The Lodge, Dulwich.

George Cohen, Esq., Shacklewell.

Millis Coventry, Esq., Corn Exchange Chambers.

Jonathan Duncan Dow, Esq., 12, Pembroke Villas, Bayswater.

John Drewett, Esq., 50, Cornhill.

Thomas Samuel Girdler, Esq., 7, Tokenhouse Yard.

Edward Hales, Esq., North Frith, Hadlow, Kent.

Henry Lewis Smale, Esq., Doctors' Commons.

Every description of LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS transacted at the lowest Rates of Premium consistent with security.

The various Tables, several of which are peculiar to this Company, have been studiously adapted to the requirements of every class of assurers.

**EQUAL RATES FOR WHOLE TERM OF LIFE.**

AGE.	ANNUAL PREMIUM.	AGE.	ANNUAL PREMIUM.
20	1 12 5	35	2 6 9
25	1 16 0	40	2 15 1
30	2 0 8	45	3 6 3

ANDREW FRANCIS, Secretary.



## THE COLONIAL AND GENERAL LAND CREDIT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under "The Companies' Act, 1862.

Capital £1,000,000, in 40,000 shares of £25 each.

First Issue, 20,000 shares.

Deposit, £1 per Share on Application, and £4 on Allotment. No call to exceed £5 per Share, or to be made at intervals of less than Three Months.

### DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL COMMITTEES.

W. J. ADAMS, Esq. (Messrs. W. J. & A. W. Adams), St. Benet's-place, Gracechurch-street.

\*J. BRESLER, Esq. (De Kock & Bresler), Pietermaritzburg, Port Natal, Director of the Natal Bank.

THOMAS CAVE, Esq., 41, Moorgate-street, Chairman of the Albion Bank.

\*W. A. DICKSON, Esq., Merchant, Fauresmith.

S. B. EDENBOROUGH, Esq., Moorgate-street-buildings, Director of the Imperial Bank.

JOHN ELIN, Esq., Merchant, Bishopsgate-street, London, Director London and Buenos Ayres Bank.

\*E. S. HANGER, Esq., Merchant, Bloemfontein.

\*J. P. HOFFMAN, Esq., D'Urban, Port Natal.

\*GEORGE HOME, Esq., Merchant, Bloemfontein, Chairman Bloemfontein Bank.

\*J. E. METHLEY, Esq., J.P., D'Urban, Port Natal.

JULIUS MOSENTHAL, Esq., 11, George-yard, Lombard-street, late Member of the Legislative Council of the Cape of Good Hope.

\*E. NIEMEYER, Esq. (Messrs. Baumann Brothers and Co.), Bloemfontein.

SIR W. SMITH, Bart., Carlton Club, Director Venezuela Railway Company.

H. W. SPRATT, Esq., Walbrook-buildings, Walbrook.

E. G. TINKER, Esq. (Messrs. Grinnell, Tinker, and Co.), 7, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

P. G. VAN DER BYL, Esq., 3, Upper Hyde-park-gardens, Director Provincial Banking Corporation.

\*T. R. WELCH, Esq., D'Urban, Port Natal.

\* These gentlemen will constitute the Local Committees.

### BANKERS.

London—Imperial Bank, Lothbury.

Natal—The Natal Bank.

### SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Wilkinson, Stevens, & Wilkinson, Nicholas-lane.

BROKERS—Messrs. Eykyn Brothers, 22, Change-Alley, Cornhill.

### AUDITORS.

Messrs. C. F. Kemp, Cannan, Ford, & Co., 7, Gresham-street.

SECRETARY (pro tem.)—Mr. Thomas Back.

OFFICES—2, St. Michael's House, Cornhill.

### PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company has been formed for the purpose of carrying on in the British Colonies and adjacent territories the business of a Land and Credit Company. The enormous increase of trade, and the variety of colonial produce, renders absolutely necessary increased facilities for the transaction of business relations between the producers and the various markets, and to assist in the development of the vast resources of our colonial dependencies.

The immediate operations which this Company will undertake are—

1. The investment of capital in the purchase of land, with the view of selling at improved prices, or leasing, as opportunities offer, and in assisting emigrants desirous of settling upon the Company's lands.

2. The advance of money, secured upon the mortgage of land, and upon other approved securities. The current rate of interest in the colonies for such advances varies from 10 to 15 per cent.; and as such capital can be raised in England by the Company upon their debentures at 6 and 7 per cent., a large profit will be derived from this branch of business.

3. The transaction of agency business, in the shipment and sale, on consignment or otherwise, of produce; in the purchase, sale, and management of estates; in the liquidation of the estates of persons deceased; and in the investment of moneys: in all which departments of business it is confidently anticipated that persons will largely avail themselves of the agency of the Company.

4. The issuing of the Company's notes in the Colonies (by which a large profit will be derived), and the transactions of general banking and financial business.

This Company has entered into preliminary arrangements for the acquisition of numerous estates in various parts of the Colony of Natal, about 300,000 acres in extent, and has also secured about 300,000 acres of land in the best parts of the Orange Free State. The purchase price of the above land is from 4s. 6d. to 13s. per acre, payable one-fourth in cash, and the remainder in debentures.

Land in the colonies is daily rising in value, owing to the large influx of sheep farmers, who are attracted by the abundant pasturage and other advantages favourable to stock farming. In proof of the large scale upon which transactions in land are taking place, it may be mentioned that during the year 1863 it appears from the Government Register of the Orange Free State that sales amounting to £436,605 were registered.

The estates purchased by the Company, many of which are already occupied by flock masters, comprise some of the finest grazing and agricultural lands, which will enable the Company to offer great inducements to emigrants to settle upon its property. These lands may be leased for a term of years, with option of purchase on long credits by the tenant within the period of their leases, thus allowing them to employ the whole of their capital in stocking and cultivating their farms, while the Company will be deriving a handsome rate of interest upon their original investment, pending the profit to be realized upon the payment of the purchase-money. A further source of profit will be found in making advances on improvements on the annual clips of wool, and in the import of live stock from Europe, all of which operations are exceedingly remunerative.

The transaction of trust and executorship agency business will form a most important item in the profitable operations of the Company. The usual charge for such business is 2½ per cent. upon the real and 5 per cent. upon the personal property, together with an additional 5 per cent. upon the gross amount realized by the liquidation of the entire estate; thus the profits of such agencies are very considerable. Several companies are in operation in Natal, the Cape, and other colonies, for the transaction of such business solely, and their shares are now at a premium of from 50 to 120 per cent., as may be seen from the following statement:—

Name of Company.	Paid Up.	Selling Prices.
Board of Executors .....	£200 0	£350 0
Association for Administering Estates .....	187 10	373 0
General Estate, &c. ....	200 0	252 0
Port Elizabeth Guardian and Trust .....	1 10	3 15
Natal Assurance and Trust Company .....	5 0	6 10

As yet no Company has been formed for this purpose in the Orange Free State, though there exists a very extensive field for such business, and the possession of a large amount of landed property in the country will confer upon this Company a very commanding position in the confidence of those who have such business to transact.

The Company will be in a very favourable position to act as factors or agents for the disposal of the large quantities of wool produced in the colonies, i.e., making cash advances to the farmers upon the security of their wool clips at the high rate of interest usually charged on such transactions, and consigning the wool to its agents for sale in England, charging the usual commission upon such agency.

The estates at present purchased by the Company being in South Africa, business will be at first commenced in that colony; but the Company contemplates an extension of their operations into the other colonies as favourable opportunities present themselves; Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania being wool-growing

countries, are especially eligible as fields for the extension of the Company's business, and preliminary arrangements to that end are already in progress.

In the event of no allotment being made, the deposits will be returned in full.

Copies of the memorandum and articles of association can be seen at the Company's Offices.

Applications for Shares must be made in the annexed form, to be obtained from the Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE COLONIAL AND GENERAL LAND COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £ I hereby request you to allot me shares in the above-named Company; and I agree to accept that number of shares, or any less number that you may allot me, subject to the memorandum and articles of association; and I hereby agree to become a member of the Company, and authorize you to enter my name upon the register of members of the Company in respect of the shares which may be so allotted to me.

Name in full .....  
Address in full .....  
Profession or description .....  
Date .....  
Signature .....

## LONDON AND LANCASHIRE FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Fire Capital, £1,000,000.—Life Capital, £100,000.

London—73 and 74, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C. Liverpool—BROWN'S BUILDINGS, EXCHANGE.

With Home and Foreign Branches and Agencies.

CHAIRMAN—F. W. RUSSELL, Esq., M.P. (Chairman of the National Discount Company).

At the ANNUAL MEETINGS held on the 8th APRIL at Liverpool, it was stated, as the

### RESULT of OPERATIONS for the Year 1864, that the

FIRE PREMIUMS amounted to.....	£108,597
Being an INCREASE over previous Year of.....	43,547
The LOSSES paid and provided for amounted to.....	67,065
LIFE ASSURANCES, under 502 Policies, were effected for.....	340,639
Producing in NEW PREMIUMS.....	9,997

W. P. CLIREHUGH, General Manager.

## STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

10, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.

CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS.

CHARLES HARWOOD, Esq., F.S.A., Judge of the County Court of Kent, and Recorder of Shrewsbury.

Every description of Life Assurance.

Annual Income, £130,000.

The Reserved Fund exceeds half a million

JESSE HOBSON, Secretary.

## THE DIRECTORS OF THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE

SOCIETY, in consequence of some remarks on the conduct of another Office contained in a recent City Article of the *Times*, consider it due to the members and other assurers in this Society to make it known that, when the non-payment of the annual premium is the result of accident, they are in the habit of receiving it on payment of a small fine in the shape of interest, without any evidence of the state of health of the assured. In a recent case, when a member actually died leaving his premium so long unpaid that the Policy was forfeited, the Directors paid the claim on being satisfied that the omission was the result of accident. As a rule, the Directors are inclined to conclude whenever the Policy has a surrendered value exceeding in amount the unpaid premium, that the non-payment of the premium must have been unintentional.

By order,

SILLS JOHN GIBBONS, Chairman.

CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

39, King-st., Cheapside, E.C.

**HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN**, 49, Great Ormond-street.—Patron, Her Majesty the QUEEN. This Institution is still the only Hospital in the metropolis specially set apart for the reception of sick children. It is not endowed, but wholly dependent on voluntary support. The Committee very earnestly solicit CONTRIBUTIONS. Bankers—Messrs. Williams, Deacon, & Co., Messrs. Hoare, and Messrs. Herries.

April, 1865.

F. H. DICKINSON, Chairman.

## PATENT ACHROMATIC STEREOSCOPES.

"Having used your Patent Achromatic Stereoscope, I consider it the best lenticular Stereoscope that I have seen, both in its optical and mechanical arrangements."—SIR DAVID BREWSTER, F.R.S., &c.

"The result is a perfection beyond which it is hardly possible to carry the Stereoscope."—*Athenaeum*.

## SMITH, BECK, & BECK,

31, CORNHILL, E.C.

**BEDSTEADS, BEDDING, and FURNITURE.—WILLIAM S. BURTON'S STOCK on SHOW of IRON and BRASS BEDSTEADS and CHILDREN'S COTS** stands unrivalled either for extent or moderateness of prices. He also supplies Bedding, manufactured on the premises, and Bed Hangings of guaranteed quality.

Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 12s. each. Ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads in great variety, from £1. 4s. to £25. Complete suites of Bed-room Furniture in mahogany, fancy woods, polished and japanned deal, always on show. These are made by WILLIAM S. BURTON, at his Manufactory, 84, Newman-street, and every article is guaranteed. China Toilet Ware in great variety, from 4s. the set of five pieces.

**WILLIAM S. BURTON, GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGER**, by Appointment, to His Royal Highness the PRINCE of WALES, sends a CATALOGUE gratis and post-paid. It contains upwards of 600 Illustrations of his illimited Stock of Sterling Silver and Electro-Plate, Nickel Silver and Britannia Metal Goods, Dish Covers, Hot-water Dishes, Stoves, Fenders, Marble Chimney-pieces, Kitchen Ranges, Lamps, Gaseliers, Tea-Trays, Urns, and Kettles, Clocks, Table Cutlery, Baths, Toilet Ware, Turnery. Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, Bedroom Cabinet Furniture, &c., with Lists of Prices and Plans of the Twenty large Showrooms, at 89, Oxford-street, W.; 1, 1A, 2, 3, and 4, Newman-street; 4, 5, and 6, Perry's-place; and 1, Newman-yard, London.

## KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY v. COGNAC BRANDY.—

This celebrated old Irish Whisky rivals the finest French Brandy. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in Bottles, 3s. 8d., at the retail houses in London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale at 8, Great Windmill-street, London, W. Observe the red seal, pink label, and cork branded "Kinahan's LL Whisky."



## HOW AND WHERE TO ADVERTISE.

**WANTED**, by SMITH & CO., Newspaper Publishers and Advertisement Contractors, Advertisements for insertion in the London and Provincial Papers. PUBLIC COMPANIES, AUCTIONEERS, ESTATE AGENTS, TRADESMEN, LADIES, and SERVANTS, before you advertise in any Newspaper, Periodical, or Magazine, please send to Smith & Co., 181, Fleet-street, London, E.C., for their terms, enclosing advertisement and one stamp for reply, and state the name of the paper you wish to advertise in. Smith & Co.'s new system of publicity in London and Six Home Counties sent free on receipt of one stamp.

Advertisements received in London for insertion in "THE LONDON REVIEW" on the same terms as at the office, for CASH ONLY. A considerable allowance is made for standing Advertisements for Three, Six, or Twelve Months, and a file of the paper is kept at the Office for intending Advertisers to inspect. S. & Co. insert Advertisements fully 20 per cent. less than any other firm in London for CASH ONLY.

**FOR FAMILY ARMS.—NOTICE.**—Just complete, a valuable INDEX, containing the Arms, Crests, and Mottoes of nearly every family in England, Scotland, and Ireland; the result of thirty years' labour. Extracted from public and private records, church windows, monumental brasses, and other places, all over the kingdom. Families desirous of knowing their correct crest, should send name and county. Plain sketch, 3s. 6d.; coloured, 6s. Arms, Crest, and Motto beautifully painted, with heraldic description, 12s. Pedigrees traced, the origin of Family Names; Wills searched; Arms impaled and quartered. The Manual of Heraldry, 400 engravings, 3s. 6d., post-free, by T. CULLETON, Genealogist, and Lecturer on Heraldry, 25, Cranbourn-street, corner of St. Martin's-lane.

**JUST PUBLISHED**, in Relief Printed in various Colours, the following Monograms, Crests, &c., suitable for albums:—

2 Sheets.—The Monograms, Arms, and Crowns of the Queen, the late Prince Consort, and all the Royal Family.

5 Sheets.—The Monograms and Crowns of the Emperor, all the French Royal Family, and Nobility of France.

5 Sheets.—The Arms of every Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1070 to 1864.

6 Sheets.—Ditto, Archbishops of York, 1070 to 1864.

4 Sheets.—The Arms of every College in Oxford and Cambridge.

15 Sheets.—The Crests and Mottoes used by Her Majesty's Regiments throughout the world.

11 Sheets.—The Crests and Mottoes used by the British Navy.

6 Sheets.—The Arms, Supporters, and Coronets of every Duke and Marquis.

90 Sheets.—The Coronets, Monograms, and Arms of Earls, Barons, and British Commoners, many of which are from original manuscripts at the College of Arms, British Museum, church monuments, and other places.

This rare and valuable collection of Family Crests, never before known to the public, is sold at 1s. per sheet; 12 sheets, 9s.; 12 dozen sheets, £3. 12s., being the whole series of 1,728 different Crests, post-free. By T. CULLETON, Seal Engraver and Diesinker by appointment to Her Majesty, 30th April, 1852; to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; and Her Majesty's Government, 25, Cranbourn-street, corner of St. Martin's-lane.

**CULLETON'S HERALDIC OFFICE**, for Engraving Arms on Stone, Steel, and Silver, according to the law of Garter and Ulster King-at-Arms, by Authority. Crest on Seals or Rings, 7s. 6d.; Book-Plate engraved with Arms and Crest, 15s.; Crest-Plate, 5s.—T. CULLETON, Engraver to the Queen, by authority (April 30, 1852), and Diesinker to the Board of Trade, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane,) W.C.

**CULLETON'S SOLID GOLD SIGNET-RINGS**, 18-carat, Hall-marked, engraved with any Crest, 42s.; ditto, very massive, for Arms, Crest, and Motto, £3. 15s. The Hall-mark is the only guarantee for pure gold.—T. CULLETON, Seal Engraver, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane).

**CULLETON'S PATENT LEVER EMBOSSEING PRESSES**, 21s., for Stamping Paper with Crest, Arms, or Address. Any person can use them. Carriage paid.—T. CULLETON, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane).

**CULLETON'S VISITING-CARDS**.—Fifty, best quality, 1s., post-free. Engraving a Copper-plate, in any style, 1s. Wedding-Cards, 50 each, for Lady and Gentleman, 50 Embossed Envelopes, with Maiden Name printed inside, all complete, 13s. 6d. Carriage Paid.—T. CULLETON, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane).

**CULLETON'S GUINEA BOX OF STATIONERY**. No Charge for Engraving Die with Crest or Motto, Monogram or Address (as charged for by other houses), if an order be given for a ream of the best paper, and 500 best envelopes to match, all stamped free and carriage paid for 21s.—T. CULLETON, Seal Engraver, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane).

**CULLETON'S PLATES for MARKING LINEN** prevent the ink spreading, and never washes out. Initials, 1s. each; Name, 2s. 6d.; Set of Numbers, 2s. 6d.; Crest, 5s.; with directions, post-free for stamps.—T. CULLETON, 25, Cranbourn-street (corner of St. Martin's-lane).

## THE FURNISHING OF BEDROOMS.

**HEAL AND SON** have observed for some time that it would be advantageous to their customers to see a much larger selection of Bed-room Furniture than is usually displayed, and that to judge properly of the style and effect of the different descriptions of Furniture, it is necessary that each description should be placed in separate rooms. They have therefore erected large and additional Show-Rooms, by which they are enabled not only to extend their show of Iron, Brass, and Wood Bedsteads, and Bed-room Furniture, beyond what they believe has ever been attempted, but also to provide several small rooms for the purpose of keeping complete suites of Bed-room Furniture in the different styles.

Japanned Deal Goods may be seen in complete suites of five or six different colours, some of them light and ornamental, and others of a plainer description. Suites of Stained Deal Gothic Furniture, Polished Deal, Oak, and Walnut, are also set apart in separate rooms, so that customers are able to see the effect as it would appear in their own rooms. A Suite of very superior Gothic Oak Furniture will generally be kept in stock, and from time to time new and select Furniture in various woods will be added.

Bed Furnitures are fitted to the Bedsteads in large numbers, so that a complete assortment may be seen, and the effect of any particular pattern ascertained as it would appear on the Bedstead.

A very large stock of Bedding (HEAL & SON'S original trade) is placed on the Bedsteads.

The Stock of Mahogany Goods for the better Bed-rooms, and Japanned Goods for plain and Servants' use, is very greatly increased. The entire stock is arranged in eight rooms, six galleries (each 120 feet long), and two large ground floors, the whole forming as complete an assortment of Bed-room Furniture as they think can possibly be desired.

Every attention is paid to the manufacture of the Cabinet work, and they have just erected large Workshops on the premises for this purpose, that the manufacture may be under their own immediate care.

Their Bedding trade receives their constant and personal attention, every article being made on the premises.

They particularly call attention to their Patent Spring Mattress, and Sommer Elastique Portatif; it is portable, durable, and elastic, and lower in price than the old spring mattress.

## HEAL &amp; SON'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

Of Bedsteads, Bedding and Bed-room Furniture sent free by post.

196, 197, 198, TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD, LONDON.

## HART &amp; SON,

ECCLESIASTICAL AND DOMESTIC

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At the FIRST GENERAL ORDINARY MEETING of the Shareholders, held at the Offices of the Company, 85, Cannon-street West, on Thursday, the 27th day of April, 1865, GEORGE PAYNE KITSON, Esq., in the Chair, the following Report was presented:—

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDING THE 31st MARCH, 1865.

THE Directors have the pleasure to submit their first Report and Balance-sheet to the 31st ultimo.

The Statement of Account shows a profit of £96,121. 7s. 7d., with which, after deducting expenses amounting to £7,843. 4s. 1d., the Directors propose to deal as follows:—By recommending the payment of a Dividend at the rate of £10 per cent. per annum, amounting to £20,000, inclusive of the interim dividend already paid; by placing to a Reserve Fund the sum of £60,000; by allocating £5,000 in discharge in full for the preliminary expenses; and carrying the balance forward to next account.

The Directors venture to think they may congratulate the Shareholders upon the successful results of their operations at the very outset of their career. They wish at the same time to explain that, in dealing with the large profits which have been made, they have decided upon limiting their recommendation of a Dividend to 10 per cent. per annum, and recommend the appropriating of the balance in the manner before mentioned, because, from the peculiar character of their business, the actual profits, although positively earned, have not yet been wholly received in cash.

The Directors are restrained from entering into any detail of their transactions, for the obvious reasons that their business is also the business of other Companies and persons, whose affairs they are not warranted in disclosing; and besides, their doing so could not be otherwise than detrimental to the interests of this Company.

The Directors have, however, much pleasure in stating, for the information of the Shareholders, that the portion of the business secured which has already arrived at a condition to be, and has actually been, turned over to the Company, will yield such large and certain profits, so secured as to be free from all contingencies whatever, that your Directors feel justified in giving the assurance, that out of the profits from these alone, without at all calculating on the business which is to be turned over to the Company when fully matured, they will be enabled to recommend during each of the next four or five years, annual dividends considerably exceeding that which you are now called on to declare.

In conclusion, the Directors wish to express their conviction that the position of the business of the Company renders it unnecessary to make any further call.

GEO. KITSON, Chairman.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT COMPANY, LIMITED.

### Balance Sheet to 31st March, 1865.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
To Capital:—				By Lease of Premises, 85, Cannon-street West	7,000	0	0
40,000 Shares, £10 each	£400,000	0	0	Furniture and Fittings	859	19	0
Less Arrears of Call	68,730	0	0	Preliminary Expenses	5,000	0	0
	331,270	0	0	Purchase of Business, including Contracts, Concessions, &c.	150,000	0	0
Amounts due on Deposits, Acceptances, &c.	454,182	3	11	Sundry Debtors	£311,574	1	9
Balance of Profit and Loss Account, as per annexed Statement	82,278	3	6	Caution Money and Advances on account of Contracts	302,440	11	8
					614,014	13	5
				Cash at Bankers	25,220	15	0
				Bills receivable in hand	65,635	0	0
					£860,730	7	5
	£867,730	7	5				

\* Note.—This amount has since been reduced by £46,400.

### Profit and Loss Account to 31st March, 1865.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
To Current Expenses, including Office Charges, Rent, Directors' Remuneration, &c.	7,843	4	1	By gross amount of Profit	96,121	7	7
Interim Dividend, at the rate of £6 per cent. per annum, to 31st December, 1864	6,000	0	0				
Balance carried to Balance Sheet	82,278	3	6				
	£96,121	7	7		£96,121	7	7

Examined and approved,

F. W. SPOONER,  
JOHNSTONE, COOPER, WINTLE, & EVANS, } AUDITORS.  
April 25th, 1865.

GEO. KITSON, Chairman.  
W. S. HOPLEY, Secretary.

The Secretary having read the Report, and the Notice convening the Meeting, the Chairman intimated that the Seal of the Company had been affixed to the register of transfers.

It was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. GETTY,—

That the Report and Balance-Sheet be received, adopted, and entered upon the Minutes of the Company.

It was moved by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. HOARE,—

That a Dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, inclusive of the interim Dividend already paid, be declared and payable at the National Bank on the 8th proximo.

It was moved by Mr. THOMPSON, seconded by Mr. CARTER,—

That the best thanks of the Meeting be presented to the Chairman for his conduct in the Chair, and to the Directors for their effective and successful management of the affairs of the Company.

April 27, 1865.

(Extracted from the Minutes.)

GEORGE P. KITSON, Chairman.  
W. S. HOPLEY, Secretary.